

PERSONAL

Here are two questions. First of all, can you recognize a good teacher when you see one? Secondly, are you a good classroom teacher yourself? If your answer to the second question is "No" then go directly to jail (which is possibly the safest place since the locals have probably been trying to run you out of town for the last few years), do not pass GO, do not collect £200. If, however, you have answered both questions in the affirmative you might be very pleased about the Burnham salary proposals currently being discussed by local authorities.

Few teachers seem to have seen the discussion paper produced by the Burnham Management Panel, which is a great pity as it is called *Letting You Know*. I sympathize with the dissemination problem. It would have been much more effective to whisper the proposals to one or two hand-picked moles and swear them to secrecy, that way everyone would have known about them within a week.

The logic of the proposals is very persuasive and the intentions laudable, but I fear that their implementation could split some staffrooms asunder. What is being suggested makes good sense. Teachers would begin their career on what is called the *Entry Grade*, normally three years in length, supported by an experienced colleague to be called a "mentor", or perhaps a

"mentor" if things go badly. On successful completion of the three year probationary period teachers would then move in to the *Main Professional Grade*, probably a 10 increment scale running to a maximum beyond the top of the present scale 2 salary point. So far so good: a more carefully thought out induction period, and a higher ceiling for those teachers stuck on scale 1, many of them very competent women working in primary schools whose careers were interrupted to enable them to raise their family. On top of the basic scale of the Main Professional Grade there are to be extra allowances for additional responsibilities, a return to the system that obtained several years ago, and not especially controversial.

What is, I think, much more explosive than has been realized so far, is the question of merit payments. There are to be two kinds of recognition of classroom merit being proposed. The first is accelerated promotion, that is the possibility of outstanding teachers jumping up the Main Professional Grade at a faster rate than their colleagues. The second is super merit awards for people already at the top of the scale. These would be recommended after what is called "the annual development discussion" in each school, and the L.E.A. would have to ensure parity between schools.

Now here is the problem. Reward-



Ted Wragg

ing good classroom teachers, especially as the teaching force ages and there are, in a contracting system, fewer extrinsic rewards around for a profession that in the expanding sixties had them by the barrel-load, seems sensible and just. To judge the merit of teachers, someone must watch them teach. Since there is often considerable disagreement about who is or is not an effective teacher when individuals are discussed, it makes sense for more than one person to see each teacher. Since a single lesson is not a sufficient

sample, each observer ought to watch several. If parity between schools is to be achieved then the evaluators, he fellow teachers or L.E.A. advisers, will have to get on their white horse and ride round several schools.

Merit payments always seem a brilliant idea before they are given out. It is afterwards that the pain is felt. Future school management training courses will have endless group exercises such as, "Devise 23 different ways of telling fellow teachers they were not given a merit award but you still value them", or "Old Pettigrew has, for years, stayed outside the funny turn by persuading his colleagues that he is a damn good classroom teacher. Find three alternative sanity-savers for him when he learns he has not been given a merit award", or "You are head of a four teacher primary school. Think of jolly remarks you can make on entering the staffroom after the announcement that only one of them has been given a merit award."

Though extensive use has been made of merit payments in the United States, the only British example was in universities in the late 1960s when there were merit awards for about a quarter of lecturing staff. Some departments gave the payments to the oldest staff on the grounds that they must be the best, others to the youngest because they needed the money, one head of department was

even said to have given a merit payment to his mistress, though where the annual development conference took place is not recorded. The scheme was a shambles and folded after two years, and the task of selecting the most competent teachers is not an impossible one. After all, there is now quite a bit of research into teaching, some of which I have described elsewhere in this issue. One American list of what research is said to have shown about effective teachers did have me in hysterics, however, with items such as "teacher avoids vague, scrambled discourse", "teacher uses well modulated voice" or "teacher shows verbal and non-verbal enthusiasm for learning". Only Barbara Woodhouse would qualify.

The real question is whether we are wise to embark on this kind of reward system. There is no simple equivalent of the stimulus paper in the appraisal of teaching competence, unless there are evaluators able to turn red or blue in the presence of good or bad teaching. It would be a pity if staffrooms were ripped apart as the final blow is delivered to the morale of several worthy professionals, especially if evaluators, after their classroom observations, were to favour the leap-around extravert rather than the less spectacular reflective kind of teacher. Let us hope the issue of merit awards will be fully debated in the next few weeks.

DIARY



Creativity... one of the RSA's four Cs

them - next Wednesday, February 29. Entries go to the RSA, 9 John Adam Street, London WC2N 6EZ, and you could always phone them on 01-839 2366 if you think your entry might be delayed in the post.

Num response

Our best primary schools have for 20 or 30 years now been paradigms of what the Royal Society of Arts is trying to encourage. But good primary curricula are now at risk as a result of two disturbing offshoots of the current educational regime, both at variance with much of what Sir Keith said in Sheffield.

The first is that curiously named White Paper of a year ago *Teaching Quality* (Cmd. 8836). Since few in education understood it and a General Election was in the offing, it hardly raised a ripple at the time. But implicit in it is that all children from the age of seven should be subjected to "specialist" teaching by "specialist" teachers; and implicit in that is the assumption

that the O-level rat race should start at the tender age of seven, with the 11-plus an increasingly common hurdle along that road.

It is not yet clear just how much paterfamilial Sir Keith claims for this second offspring - the reintroduction of selection at 11 as Government policy. Mr Robert Dunn's speeches commending the 11-plus never quite match the standard of Sir Keith's lucid prose and seem always to be issued,

not by the DES, but by Conservative Central Office.

Indeed they sometimes appear to be drafted by sources even further right than that. So I am pleased to see an increasing awareness that the 11-plus threatens good primary schools almost as much as it does comprehensive.

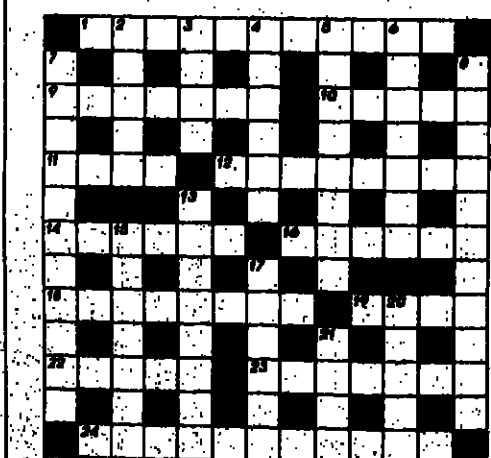
The Heart of England School Parents' Teachers' Association have sent round a questionnaire which points to the damage that its re-introduction in Solihull will bring not only to their own school but to their primary schools too. "Do you believe," they enquire, "that the work of our primary schools will remain as valuable and varied?"

It is one of those "questions expecting the answer 'no'", which in later always began with *Nim*. I have little doubt that the sensible, middle-of-the-road parents of Balsall Common, who pay good rates to maintain good primary schools, will know the appropriate response.

I see that the Select Committee have decided to study primary education. I hope they realize they cannot do so in isolation, and that secondary selection and examinations profoundly distort the primary curriculum below.

Christopher Price

No 140 CROSSWORD by Rufus



Across

- 1 Order given by teachers (11)
- 9 Descriptive of all eternity (7)
- 10 One may be attached to a dog because of it (5)
- 11 By whom used for (5)
- 12 Thick (11 letters) (10)
- 14 In a wood there's a female singer (6)
- 16 Set off with a meal outside (6)
- 18 Pretty girl in red and rose (6)
- 19 Unusually loud child's game (4)
- 22 My life is found out by a girl (5)
- 23 It's usually being a long time in one occupation (7)
- 24 Special band for the match (7,4)

Down

- 2 Give someone a sharp reminder (5)
- 3 River on course (4)
- 4 Possibly push to a conclusion (6)
- 5 Mother is surrounded by excited ladies, exhibiting charm (8)
- 6 Fellow supporting Jewish's own conference (5,2,3,3)
- 7 On the verge of retirement (5,3,3)
- 8 Time may be on his side (6,5)
- 13 Exclusively used troops (8)
- 15 Restore team that will go down (10)
- 17 A good example of a well set (6)
- 20 A joining of hands in marriage outside (5)
- 21 African wasteland (4)

Solution to puzzle No 139

THE TIMES

Educational Supplement

DAY MARCH 2 1984 NUMBER 3631

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British firms lose out to foreign rivals

by Philip Venning

British firms have failed to capitalise on the huge expansion of world spending on education in the last 10 years, a TES special report reveals this week. As they gather later this month at Didacta, the international education equipment exhibition, British companies face the fact that most of the lucrative contracts to build, equip, and supply schools, colleges and universities abroad have gone to their competitors.

Contracts for the big education programmes in the Middle East or in development-aided Third World countries have generally gone to countries like Sweden or Japan. Only in educational publishing, where the British reputation remains high, have the

Full report - Pages 10 and 11

English language and Commonwealth links been a significant commercial advantage.

Figures are hard to come by, but only about 2 per cent of the value of World Bank education projects went to British firms in 1981-82, for example.

Though British companies were particularly hard hit by the recession and by the financial difficulties of important markets like Nigeria, they are slightly more optimistic than they have been for some years because of the improvement in the exchange rate.

Even so few can point to any really large overseas contracts, with the notorious exception of the £300m Cementation deal to build a university in Oman, the cause célèbre associated with Mark Thatcher.

Part of the trouble is that many British companies, particularly those making equipment, are tiny by world standards, and not used to the kind of cooperation needed to put together the big package deals preferred by overseas clients. It's also suggested that they lack Government back-up.

It is also generally accepted that Britain does better providing the specialist training needed by many countries rather than the buildings or equipment that go with it.

Britain was much slower off the mark than many competitors in recognizing the importance of the world education market, and it was only in 1978 (after several years of high spending by oil-rich Arabs) that there was a serious proposal for a British Educational Exports Council. The idea was not adopted, but there is now some liaison between the various relevant government departments and the trade through a committee serviced by the British Council.

Over the period the British Council has bowed to pressure to make it more commercially minded, and now plays a key role in promoting training. But the sums of money involved are still small by world standards.

Concern at Labour plan

by David Lister

Leaders of the Socialist Education Association were reeling this week from a paper issued by Mr David Hughes, the Labour Party national agent, which could mean the demise of the SEA.

The Labour Party has decided to review the future of all the affiliated socialist societies and is considering having more affiliations, or ending affiliations altogether.

This last option has alarmed the SEA. Mr Graham Lane, national secretary said: "I am completely stunned. This is a very negative document and I understand there are people on the NEC who would like to see the end of affiliations. If this happens it will undoubtedly mean the end of the SEA."

Although the SEA has only 2000 members, it has been influential in shaping Labour Party education policy nationally and in certain local authorities.

Most teachers involved with the Girls Into Science and Technology (GIST) project - one of the longest running and most widely known equal opportunities initiatives ever mounted in schools - do not feel the project has changed their attitudes or altered their classroom practices significantly.

And one school the project appears to have aroused such hostility and resentment that it has had a negative effect on teacher attitudes, according to an independent evaluation of the project.

GIST was set up in 1979 to try to tackle lack of interest and underachievement by girls in science and technology. The team worked in eight secondary schools in the Manchester area, using a range of approaches including visits to schools by women scientists, classroom observations, and workshops and conferences.

Its wide scope and the fact that it was set up when problems in this area were just being generally recognised made it



Oh Boy! he's unteachable

by Nick Wood

Mr Peter Dawson, general secretary of the Professional Association of Teachers, has spoken of his days trying to teach Boy George, the chart-topping singer who wears make-up, lipstick and women's clothes.

He is quoted at length in *Globe*, an American magazine, on his recollections of the schooldays of the outrageous pop singing millionaire.

Mr Dawson (pictured below), formerly headmaster of Eltham Green school in south-east London, is described by the magazine as "the toughest principal in Britain". He recalls how in 1976 he expelled the singer, then plain George O'Dowd, son of a boxing coach.

"He was a perpetual truant. He wouldn't come to school, and he wouldn't work when we got him there," said Mr Dawson.

He expelled George because he was unteachable. "He was weird. There was no evidence at the time that he was in any way confused as to whether he wanted to dress up as a boy or girl. But there was one thing he was not confused about - he did not want to work."



Peter Dawson: George was weird.

The talent scouts who search for inner-city Miltons

To ILEA's Acland Burghley Comprehensive School to fulfil the worst fears of the noble Baroness Cox. Summoned to indoctrinate the O-level sociology class in the Principles of Socialism, I do so with gusto.

I am told it is all above board, since they have already been indoctrinated in "Alliance-ism" by a local Liberal, and the Conservative Central Office are dispatching a doctor after half term to inject them with a Jesuit zeal for Thatcherism. They appear to be quite capable of remaining immune to us all.

The class is somewhat diminished, neither, I am told, on account of my presence nor Camden truancy, but because of the counter-attraction of talent scouts from the University of Sussex. Like certain colleges at Oxford, they are in search of mutes, inglorious inner-city Miltons, in danger of wasting their sweetness on the desert air of Tufnell Park. The theory is that they spot them in the fifth-form, move them to Sussex places while they're in the lower sixth, and then, if they get any sort of reasonable A-levels, watch them blossom in the pure, enriched Brighton atmosphere over the next three years. (Sussex insist it's an exercise in altruism, and only a small proportion actually wind up in Brighton.)

As I silently wish the absentees well in their good fortune at having stumbled upon this convenient fast track in the university rat race, I discuss with their level colleagues the variety of all the references examinations like O-level sociology, and we mutually commend Sir Keith on his determination to be rid of them.

Noble idea

If Sir Keith is really as keen as he professes to be on replacing unhelpful lists of who's supposedly better than whom, by genuine skill tests, he might put just a little bit of his money where his mouth is, and invest in the Education for Capability Scheme of the Royal Society of Arts.

He can rest assured that it is a respectable scheme, which emanated from a document four years ago, signed by much of the Establishment and many of his friends, and which anticipated the philosophy of his Sheffield speech. Among several hundred

eminent signatories, friendly knights like Terrance Beckett, Terence Conran, Monty Finniston and Michael Edwards were liberally represented and even girls (that newly-fashionable rarity by Snowden and Selkirk).

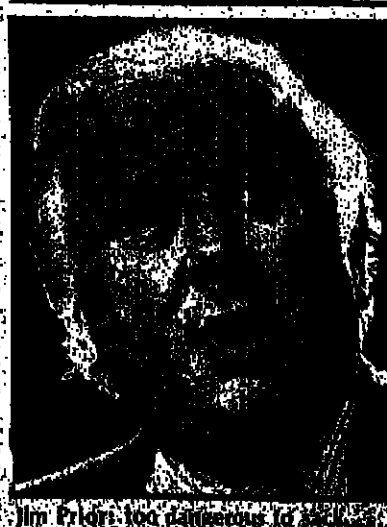
There really isn't any point in showering these people with honours, if you fail to support their projects when they produce them.

The aim of the scheme is to update and broaden the three Rs into the four Cs. Competence in the practice of skills and the use of knowledge; coping with their own lives and the world around them; developing their own creativity; and learning to do all these things in cooperation with others.

Any organization involved in education or training can enter - schools, colleges, universities, companies, even the Government itself - if they think they have a programme which fulfils these criteria.

The carrot the RSA offers is a Certificate of Recognition, and even a small grant - if it is felt this could be crucial to the scheme. But the real satisfaction must be the enthusiasm which I saw shining from the faces of the youngsters who presented their schemes to the public last year.

I say all this not just to inform the uninitiated and recommend the DES to take a greater interest in the idea, but to remind those schools which have already decided to enter that the closing date for 1984 is almost upon



Sir Keith: too colleagues

Prior notice

As spring comes and the snowdrops burst into bloom, the minds of eager young Conservative MPs turn to their chances of preferment, and they know that there can only be jobs available at the bottom if there are changes at the top. So they speculate endlessly, one line goes like this: there must be a reshuffle this year, and Jim Prior has done an unduly long stint in Northern Ireland. He is too dangerous to sack, so he needs to be found a Cabinet post where policy is 'unimportant' and in which he can be rendered harmless.

There's only one such job - Education. So it's Sir Keith to the Lords and the charge of 'unimportant'. If anyone would like to help, I've been offered

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Solution to puzzle No 139

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On probation

Will headteachers accept probation? Bert Lodge reports from this week's key conference.

Costly words

Four words that cost a teacher his job.

United force

Ministers now face a formidable alliance against their further education plans.

Higher bridge

Andrew Bennett, MP, plans for full universities and polytechnics in the '90s.

Uncertain government

DES research shows school governors are unsure of their powers and their purpose and under the thumb of heads and L.E.A. officers.

Arts/Books

Jennie Ingham on the ethnic origins of some English folk tales; Chaim Berman on being Jewish; Lynne Truss on playwright Trevor Griffiths; Christine Varley on Peter Hain's

Political Trials in Britain

Sarah Jane Evans on education in Spain; Literary Competition: special articles and reviews on children's theatre and drama.

Resources/Media

Barry Fox on "Photography at Work '84"; Andrew Peggie on Schools Radio music programmes, plus reviews of *Moonlight and Village Schools*.

Computers

Platform: Richard Ennals says that micros in schools could do more harm than good, unless we make more logical preparations for the fifth generation.

Extra: Information technology in

initial teacher training: computers and music; micros and language development in the primary school and four pages of software reviews.

50
الكتاب

It takes two to cooperate

It is less than two months since Sir Keith Joseph used his North of England address at Sheffield to call on the teachers and the local authorities to join with him in concerted attempts to raise educational standards and breathe new vigour into the school curriculum. It is less than two months, in fact, since he put his own sincerity on the line, admitting past mistakes, appealing for a new beginning and a new spirit of cooperation.

His Sheffield speech was well received. If the response showed anything, it showed that there is a strong underlying eagerness among all the partners in the education system to work together and to do so more effectively. The education service thrives on cooperation not confrontation and it is plain that there is a powerful desire to reach a new accord on the curriculum in which all can share. At Sheffield, it even looked as if Sir Keith was moving towards a style of leadership which might make this possible.

Since January, however, Sir Keith's pitch has been greeted by one Government ineptitude after another. The Rates Bill was in the pipeline before Sheffield, but the parliamentary debates have only served to emphasize the enormity of rate-capping and what it does to local government. No doubt when the time comes for Mr Jenkin to issue his decrees, the rate-capped authorities will find that they are less harshly treated than they now forecast. But it is not just the big spenders who are up in arms. The Government has antagonized its natural friends as well as its enemies and this antagonism is rubbing off on all its dealings with the local authorities.

In recent years there have been many occasions when the education interest in local government has not been able to count on the whole-hearted support of the local authorities as a whole: the education committees of the local authority associations have been brushed aside by the politicians who control the metropolitan councils and the shire counties, who have been less than desolated to see the largest local authority service cut down to size. Now this has changed - for the time being, anyway. One side-effect of Mr Jenkin's stand-up fight with the local authorities has been to strengthen the hand of the education interest in the authority associations in those quarrels with the Government which directly affect education.

The local authorities have taken up the fight against Education Support Grants and while this is small beer beside rate-capping, it makes another cause for contention with Sir Keith at a time when he is trying to woo their support. There is a case for ESCs - at any rate, for a small DES development

fund. But the more the Government pushes the local authorities around and uses the MSC to bypass the Rate Support Grant, the stronger becomes the fear that this is the thin end of a wedge. Already it is being quietly hinted that when the time comes for the MSC to hand over responsibility for TVEI to the DES, Parliament will be asked to increase the funds available for Education Support Grants from a half of one per cent of RSG to 5 or 10 per cent or whatever sum by then reflects the ambitions and appetites of the DES.

Clearly two recent events have further complicated relationships. The first and most directly relevant is the Training White Paper and the way in which it was issued. Again, it hit the authorities in the purse. From 1985-86 they lose funds at source and another tranche of further education has to look to the MSC for direction as well as funding. Again the crass arrogance of the Government's approach was deeply offensive to many people and especially to the local education authorities. Nobody with any independent spirit wants to be governed like that. Governments which behave like that - not by accident, but because this is the style which is set at the top - deserve to get bloody noses and suffer electoral defeats to teach them to treat other people and other interests decently. In a democracy a government's manner counts, not just its matter.

The MSC is now feeling the brunt of the authorities' indignation. It needs the cooperation of the authorities and their colleagues specifically it needs advice and expertise. Mr David Young and his colleagues recognize that the authorities are in no mood to help in dismantling the present system - even to the extent of joining an *ad hoc* steering group - and it looks as if, wisely, the MSC will make a virtue out of necessity and allow a breathing space to elapse before they begin actively to plan the redistribution of NAFE funds. How far the authorities will go in maintaining their refusal to talk to the MSC on these matters, and whether they will refuse to allow their colleagues to do so, remains to be seen.

It is unlikely that the local authority associations can keep all their members in line - already there are suggestions that Birmingham may break ranks among the cities. When the MSC starts to talk about money it will require a lot of conviction on the part of authorities and colleges to hold the line.

The second extraneous event which threatens to interrupt normal dealings is the debacle concerning union membership at GCHQ, Cheltenham. It is not yet clear how far this will interfere with trade union participation in the MSC and all its work - both at the

national level, and in the diffuse operation of the Youth Training Scheme. But it is most unlikely that the MSC will be unscathed. As the MSC is at present constituted, the trade unions and the local authorities are two of the major constituents. If the Government is at loggerheads with both, it is difficult to see how this can fail to affect the multifarious activities of the MSC as they impinge on factories, offices and colleges.

The final question concerns what the diplomats might call linkage. How far will arguments between the Government and the unions about trade union membership, or between the Government and the local authorities about money and power, be linked to other matters on which the Government asks for the cooperation of the teachers and the authorities - for example, examination reform, curriculum change, a teachers' salary structure, teacher training.

On the face of it these are separate issues. That will be how Sir Keith and his officials will try to keep it. But will they succeed? Ministers have already cold-shouldered the teachers' unions to the point that they will miss no opportunity to stick their knife in. The local authorities would like to believe that the Government needs them as much as they need the Government: they will not be keen to pull Sir Keith's chestnuts out of the fire. They are more likely to question Sir Keith's ability to deliver his side of a partnership bargain, or even his ability to understand what such a bargain means.

The only possible bull point for Sir Keith is that the teachers' pension contribution is not now to be increased - the I.E.A.s will carry the can. But that won't cut much ice in Burnham, when next year the cost of a new salary structure calls the bluff behind those encouraging paragraphs in the *Teaching Quality* document.

The trouble with any attempt to extend displeasure with the Government's dictatorial behaviour on educational finance and non-advanced further education to other, less contentious, educational matters is that the authorities and the teachers know they could end by cutting off their noses to spite their faces, with nobody really the worse off except the pupils in the schools and the students in the colleges. This is something which responsible people rightly are anxious to avoid if the Government lets them, but the way things are going Mrs Thatcher seems determined to provoke hostility on all sides, and put the urbane conventions which normally prevail, in education, as elsewhere, under intolerable strain.

COMMENT

A new way with old heads

What a pity that Sir Keith Joseph fails to direct his intellectual clarity as constructively towards management of the teaching force as he does to the curriculum.

For all his professed dedication towards teacher quality and assessment, he does not seem to spend a fraction of the time thinking through the processes of quality control that he gives, for example, to the minutiae of the history syllabus.

The latest evidence of this rather disappointing attitude came at Monday's conference (page 6) called to discuss the selection of secondary head teachers. After all the interest generated by the POST report, and a clutch of thoughtful papers on better selection methods prepared for the meeting, the Secretary of State dashed expectations by yet again emphasizing his obsession with getting rid of the bad ones, with a prescription for probation and transferable pensions.

This was supposed to be an occasion devoted to the generation of ideas for improving selection procedures, but Sir Keith chose to open, with a vote of no confidence, by concentrating on

what might happen if they continued to fail.

Whether a special probationary period for heads is really practical is highly doubtful. Probation which was a mere formality would be pointless, and, in any case, much less important than proper assessment procedures for all teaching staff, including heads - something which is thought to enjoy Sir Keith's benevolent approval and which is now the subject of negotiations between local authorities and teacher unions.

If Sir Keith was prepared to concentrate on what he himself might do to make the selection process more effective, he could find it useful to study the report of the DES-funded research on governing bodies which Professor Maurice Kogan previews on page 24. Some of the observations in the POST report centred on the role of governing bodies and their possible weaknesses. Professor Kogan and his team found that governing bodies - in spite of the Taylor report, the 1980 Act and pious Government exhortations - are unsure of their powers, their purpose, and who they represent. The Government should provide clear national guidelines, they conclude, and add that training could only solve a limited number of problems without them.

But if school governors are to continue to play a major role in the selection of head teachers, might it not be feasible to make training obligatory (as it is for IEPs) at least for members of appointment panels? This might be

one small step towards more effective selection, and something on which Sir Keith Joseph could give a positive lead without adding to the education bill. Wouldn't that be better than yet another exercise based on a negative hypothesis?



Solihull... favourable circumstances.

Vote of confidence

The latest twist in the Solihull grammar school revival story (page 3) will enable the comprehensive lobby to say "I told you so". Parents have successfully opposed the Conservative leaders who have tried to persuade them that what they really want is a return to the status quo. The school has been dropped.

on the face of it, comprehensive schools can operate in favourable circumstances and get good results in conventional terms. This seems to be the judgment of the parents, whose natural conservatism rejected the radical Thatcherism of the extremists in the Tory group who tried to push through the grammar school scheme.

What has come out of the exercise is pretty encouraging. It includes a strengthening of the authority's advisory staff and a big increase in in-service training. It looks, in fact, as if Mr Colin Humphrey, the director of education, has salvaged most of what he wanted from his report on raising educational standards, without being lumbered with another contentious and time-consuming reorganization. The schools will breathe again and make the most of this vote of public confidence.

...no comment

"In a mixed sex school, an omitted or incorrect sex will normally be detected. SWIRE are able to isolate the individual candidate and assign the correct sex: 'manually'. This, however, is an extremely time-consuming operation and where an error does occur it is too late."

Donald Frith, former secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, is now general director of the Centre for the Study of Comprehensive Schools.

Second opinion Blinkered view from the MSC

It has been announced that the Manpower Services Commission will make cuts in the Youth Training Scheme organized by voluntary groups under the Community Programme. The assertion is that schemes offered by employers are better geared to the needs of young people, because it is employers who know what skills are employable and how to teach them.

This looks like the worst case Government policy: those who can get jobs when they leave school either the feckless or the thick. The schools have wasted everybody's time by trying to pretend to educate them, what they need is the steady grind of basic English and arithmetic plus vocational training: employers can provide basic training related to the actual jobs; and the day after tomorrow economic prosperity will return.

Teachers know what dangerous nonsense this is. They are very sure that schools produce their failures: they do basically treat the young as fellow human beings. They recognize their concern to be able to earn their own living, but that is not an end in itself; it is a part of the way in which they will be enabled to lead full human lives, with all that implies in personal relationships with others and with a wide range of human interests.

There is no evidence that the MSC is likely to be any better at manpower planning than the others who have tried. There is a great deal of evidence to suggest that, however "skilled" the working population may become, there will still not be enough jobs to round. Indeed, the hopes for tomorrow's prosperity are, on the Government's own admission - or even boast, founded upon the drastic reduction in the number of workers needed to maintain a given level of production.

It is not surprising that employer-based schemes regularly train more young people than they have the capacity to employ. The process has become a substitute for the job-interview.

What then about the community programme? This is at least as much in touch with reality as employer-based schemes. It is no less concerned with teaching employable skills. The sort of jobs which are undertaken are not in short supply. The participants realize that in most cases what they are doing would not be done at all but for them, and they can gain particular self-esteem from this and a sense of what a community can do for itself when it has self-confidence and a spirit of cooperation. From community programmes can grow a greater independence of spirit, a growth in enterprise and a diminution of dependence upon the turn of events and the patronage of employers.

Since the early days of YOP, I have seen something at close quarters of the training opportunities offered by a voluntary agency. Often those who enrolled were the ones who had gained least success from school. Most of them became deeply committed to the tasks offered and to the training which enabled them to deal effectively with those tasks. They enjoyed an atmosphere in which they were encouraged to think about the job and about themselves. They made substantial advances in self-respect.

The MSC is supposed to be building a bridge between school and the adult world. It needs to cultivate a better understanding of "school" and a wider definition of "the adult world" than is implied by its decision to cut down the community programme and concentrate upon industrial trainees.

Donald Frith

Parents and teachers have fought off the reintroduction of selection in Solihull, stemmed its advance in Berkshire and are gathering forces to stop it spreading in two London boroughs. But in Wiltshire, the fight goes on... Biddy Passmore reports.

Parental opposition kills off Solihull selection scheme

The plan to reintroduce selection to the West Midlands borough of Solihull, first reduced to two schools and then one, has now died completely. Members of the ruling Tory group decided by a large majority on Monday not to pursue the plan, in view of the overwhelming opposition they encountered from local parents and schools during the consultation period.

They agreed on a resolution, to be put to the full education committee on Wednesday, calling instead for a programme to raise standards in all schools. This includes the appointment of three extra advisers - one to improve provision for "the gifted and most able", a second to supervise teachers' career development and in-service training and a third to monitor and raise standards of numeracy and literacy in primary schools.

The in-service training budget will also be boosted by 50 per cent and the whole package could cost the council an extra £100,000.

Mr Michael Ellis, chairman of the education committee, said after the group meeting he was "disappointed in some ways" because he still felt there was sufficient evidence to justify setting up a separate selective school.

But there was no point in consulting if you paid no attention to what people said. His main aim is to improve standards in Solihull, especially for the more able children, he said, "and we will achieve that, even if not in the way I originally intended."

Dr Peter Lea, chairman of the governors of Heart of England school and the leading anti-grammar school campaigner, said the abandonment of selection was "good news" - at last they've listened. A poll of parents has shown that more than 90 per cent had been opposed to the selective scheme, he said.

The news was hailed as "a tremendous victory for the children of Solihull" by Mr Doug McAvoy, acting general secretary of the National Union of Teachers. And Mr Gilles Radice, Labour education spokesman, said the authority's decision was "a triumph".

Lancashire likely to offer 'quit early' lure

by Richard Garner

Up to 100 teachers could be offered incentives to quit under a move by Labour-controlled Lancashire County Council to reduce staffing levels at schools they consider overstaffed.

Proposals aimed at reducing posts in the county by nearly 200 will be considered by the next meeting of the education committee - and amongst them is a plan to offer early retirement to the schools which have the best staffing ratios.

The plan is not being opposed by local members of the National Union of Teachers - although they are worried that offering the incentives only to teachers at schools the authority considers to be overstaffed is "limiting", and "unfair".

Under the plan, teachers over the age of 50 with more than five years' service with the authority will be able to apply for early retirement - with an enhancement of their pension benefits.

Mr John Hudson, Lancashire's education officer in charge of schools, said the final decision on any application for early retirement would rest with the chairman and vice-chairman of special sub-committee being set up to monitor the scheme.

Teachers in shortage subjects will not be offered incentives to leave, he said.

for the parents' efforts and he hoped it served as a warning to other authorities who might be tempted to "put back the clock".

Selection also beat a retreat in Berkshire this week. At a meeting of the county council last Saturday, four Conservative councillors abstained and two voted with Labour and Liberal councillors on a Liberal motion opposing the extension of selection beyond the borough of Reading.

They thus overturned a council scheme to throw open some of the places at the two remaining grammar schools in Reading to pupils from the whole county. The plan has encountered fierce opposition from parents and comprehensive schools who said they would be robbed of their brightest pupils.

But the second part of the Liberal motion - to replace the two grammar schools with a single, co-educational grammar school - was defeated when Labour members refused to support it.

Mr Judy Sharpe, of the Berkshire Schools Action Committee, said of the vote she was "delighted for Berkshire and sad for Reading". The two grammar schools would absorb an increasing percentage of the town's pupils as rolls fell, she said.

Parents and teachers are planning a protest march in the London borough of Redbridge tomorrow over the Conservative-controlled authority's plans to increase the selective intake into the borough's secondary schools.

A campaign committee has produced 1,000 posters, 20,000 leaflets and 12,000 stickers urging parents to vote for a fully comprehensive, non-selective system of education in the opinion poll being carried out by the borough council.

The Conservative group is putting forward two alternative options - both of which would increase the proportion of children going to selective secondary schools. Under one, the two existing grammar schools would be retained - while the number of comprehensives would be reduced by three. The second option would create two

teachers," he added. "By no means will all comers be accepted."

"The second criteria will be age and length of service - people that are older and have more years' service will be allowed to go first. It will be less expensive because they will have fewer years of enhanced benefits."

He added that - if the total planned saving of 192 jobs was met by natural wastage and redeployment - then the scheme would not operate but that the authority's schools sub-committee had recommended that the number allowed to volunteer should be restricted to a maximum of 100 in any case.

Mr Frank Shuttleworth, NUT county secretary, said: "We've got to get philosophically that we've got to get rid of people voluntarily but realistically, because of the government's policies towards local authorities - we accept there's got to be a cut."

"We also accept you're better off getting rid of people at the older end of the profession and getting the young blood into the schools."

Last week it was revealed in the TES that the Inner London Education Authority planning to offer voluntary redundancy terms to its secondary school teachers as part of a drive to reduce staffing by 2,500 over a five-year period.

NEWS



Rock on: Jedburgh Grammar School band XI-Zero have won the Scottish heat of the TSB Rock School Competition. The band, which also won the Scottish regional final last year, collected £1,750 (plus £1,000 worth of equipment for their school) and go on to the national finals in Manchester.

Call for 10% switch to science places

by Bert Lodge

A ten per cent switch nationwide from arts-based to science-based student places, with 500 lecturers a year spending 12 months in industry, was called for this week by the Engineering Council.

The council, set up to promote good practice in engineering and to encourage engineering education, is also asking for £200m government money a year to be switched to engineering training.

The proposals are part of a radical initiative by the engineering professions to remedy what the council calls "the serious shortage of high quality training places."

The council wants funding to be in accordance with the policy of five-year earmarking of funds which would be directed to the council's own system of accrediting engineering courses. This is an implied criticism of the present method of funding, particularly of universities from the University Grants Committee.

Sir Kenneth Corfield, council chairman, said: "The present methods of funding do not always ensure that the proper resources reach the training departments who most deserve them. In fact, recent history suggests that some engineering departments have suffered because of the present funding policies."

It was estimated last March by the DES that 10,000 primary teachers would need to be recruited for 1984-85 compared with only 6,000 in the previous year. Vacancies for secondary teachers - put at 11,000 for 1984-85 - are expected to fall to only 5,500 by 1985-86.

The council envisages paying a flat rate contribution of £50 per head per week to companies for each student chartered engineer in their training scheme. This would cost about eight millions a year. It also proposes a system of payments for those companies providing the training for technicians engineers and engineering technicians which would cost around £120m a year.

The council said that the serious shortage of engineering training had come about because economic pressures have forced industry to spend less on training.

"Large firms are able only to train for their own immediate requirements had small firms on their own don't have the resources necessary to make good the short fall," Sir Kenneth said.

"Meanwhile Britain's share of world trade has dropped from 15 per cent to 8 per cent in recent years."

research, consultancy and design work; and suggests eight to one up to 11 to one. Calling for £200m annually to be switched from present government spending on training, Sir Kenneth pointed out that industry has been spending £2,500m a year on training and the Manpower Services Commission alone will be spending nearly £1,000m this year.

"We are not asking for any new money," Sir Kenneth said. "Nor is the sum of £200m huge in the context of what is being spent."

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Staff to get transfer advice

The Government is ready to approve local authority conversion courses for secondary teachers being transferred to primary schools.

But it has accepted the advice of the Advisory Committee on the Supply and Education of Teachers that for the time being there is no need for a national plan of secondary-to-primary transfer.

The announcement was made in a letter last week from Sir Keith Joseph, Education Secretary, to Sir Clifford Butler, ACSET chairman. In it Sir Keith recognizes that local circumstances may make it desirable for employers to redeploy teachers from secondary to primary and this will require in-service training.

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MSC officials challenged by area board

An area manpower board is challenging the right of Manpower Services Commission officials to tell it to reduce the number of Youth Training Scheme places in community projects. Its stand is likely to intensify the gathering crisis in the relationship of the MSC with the local authorities and the TUC.

The Birmingham and Solihull board last week refused to approve a plan by MSC officials to close down four

local authority adult education YTS schemes and cut back provision in a large number of other projects. The board would reduce the area's 2,500 Mode B1 places by 500.

The board stuck to its decision despite the insistence of the officials that new guidelines give them the power to decide whether to close schemes.

Union representatives on the board will report the matter to the TUC, and point out that the MSC - which is acting reluctantly to enforce a Ministerial directive to cut B1 provisions in favour of more places with employers - is taking away one of the primary functions of the boards, which were set up to decide the scale and balance of the YTS in the area.

Without the 300 union representatives there would be little point retaining the boards.

PLATFORM

NEWS

Moving on from the BASICS

Richard Ennals explains that putting microcomputers into schools could do more harm than good, unless the Government takes action on a flurry of reports advocating their more intelligent and logical use

In September 1982 the Alvey Committee report on advanced information technology was published, and the Government announced its acceptance of a large proportion of the recommendations in the following spring. The report had been prompted by an invitation from Japan to collaborate in research into the new "fifth generation" of computers. It constituted an agreement across the spectrum of opinion in the British computer science community as to the major technical objectives and the need for close collaboration between researchers, government and industry in achieving them.

Throughout the report great emphasis was placed on education, with a well-educated workforce being the country's most crucial resource. Particular recommendations were made for the increase in specialist research personnel in areas such as intelligent knowledge-based systems, but it was made clear that additional effort was required on a much wider scale to facilitate the intelligent use of new technologies. This was to be in addition to existing schemes promoting simple awareness of information technology.

The one paragraph specifically on schools (paragraph 7.9) made a trenchant attack on current practice on the introduction of computers.

Action must start in the schools. We support the moves which are now putting computing on the curriculum. But, it is no good just providing schools with microcomputers. This will merely produce a generation of poor BASIC programmers. Universities in fact are having to give remedial education to entrants with a level of computer science. Teachers must be properly trained, and the languages chosen with an eye to the future. Uncorrected, the explosion in home computing with its 1950s and 1960s programming style will make this problem even worse.

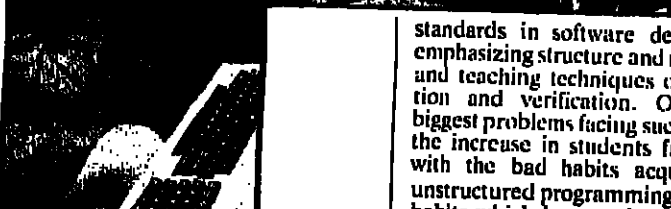
More constructive suggestions have come in subsequent reports, addressing the issue of appropriate education for the future with computers.

On the initiative of the Cabinet Office, a report was submitted in 1983 by a working party of the department of computing at Imperial College, under the chairmanship of Valerie Downes. It gave recommendations on "Retraining Teachers in Information Technology", designed to equip experienced teachers of other disciplines with the expertise in teaching information technology. The starting point was a critical look at the nature of the subjects previously taught.

Last summer the Social Science Research Council published a report by Morley Sage and David Smith of Southampton University, entitled *Microcomputers in Education*. It was not concerned with the teaching of computing as such, but with the intelligent use of the computer in education. It saw few examples of current good practice, and little existing software that was worthy of extensive evaluation. It identified the need for an extensive programme of research in this area, and proposed a possible framework, starting with an analysis of the kinds of thinking and learning with which we are concerned in different subjects, and the ways in which the technology can make a useful contribution.

Last December the Computer Board for Universities and Research Councils published a report on computer facilities for teaching in universities. It found strong evidence that an existing computer facilities are inadequate, both in quality and quantity, for the genuine needs of students at undergraduate and postgraduate courses. It recommended that "urgent action should be taken by the appropriate government departments, principally the Department of Education and Science, to provide funds for these facilities so that future graduates can acquire relevant skills and knowledge."

Introductory courses in computing for all undergraduates have been recommended.



commented since 1970. The report revealed a lack of planning for such teaching or teaching facilities in a majority of institutions of higher education. Figures from the university showed that only 4 per cent of the students using computer facilities were in departments of education, making up less than 1 per cent of computer use overall. The report provides a full analysis of "current impediments to realising the potential".

What is the significance from the classroom point of view of this flurry of reports and accompanying inactivity? Are there genuine issues of concern for the practising teacher? I write as a former head of a history department in a comprehensive school, and want now to relate them to recent statements from the Education Secretary that could offer us some cause for hope, if and only if they are followed up by action and appropriate expenditure.

The new fifth generation of computers will bear little resemblance to today's machines. They are being designed to be easy to use, understanding spoken or written natural language, freeing the user from the need to learn a particular computer language. They will help with real problems such as mending a car, medical advice, language translation or office management.

Such problems are too complex to be handled by computers with only one processor: fifth generation computers will have numerous processors solving problems in parallel. They will not use today's conventional languages which are based on today's machines: logic programming and functional programming languages are being used as the basis of the new systems, now under development in Japan, the United Kingdom and elsewhere, with much of the fundamental research being carried out in the United Kingdom.

Current computer science labours under the great burden of software generation and maintenance. Courses in software engineering, emphasized in the Alvey report and at Imperial College, are concerned with improving

standards in software development, emphasizing structure and modularity, and teaching techniques of specification and verification. One of the biggest problems facing such courses is the increase in students from school with the bad habits acquired from unstructured programming in BASIC, habits which have to be eradicated.

Much fifth generation computer research is designed to overcome this problem. By emphasizing the importance of clear description and problem specification, and then automatically transforming the specification into an efficient program, many of the problems besetting the software engineers should be overcome. This is one context for the work using Logic as a computer language in which, where the student's description of his problem is regarded as a program in micro-PROLOG which can be used to solve the problem on the computer.

There is a more radical side to this question. Languages such as micro-PROLOG are becoming available on the whole range of microcomputers used in schools and in the home. A tool that was unavailable to research scientists a few years ago is available over the counter of high street shops today. But how should such a tool be used? With all this talk of fifth generation computers and expert systems, how can we benefit from them? Cost and availability of hardware is becoming less of a significant problem. The same applies to the underlying software.

The best place for young people to learn about advanced information technology and its uses should not be an information technology centre, or on a Youth Training Scheme. It should be a school. This is not to say that all teaching should be with, or about, computers.

At school students encounter different forms of knowledge and acquire experience in their use and manipulation in a social context. A good teacher has capacities that far exceed the potential of a more mechanical expert system. He has to be able to assimilate a wide range of knowledge, select from it for appropriate use, and explain it at different levels to his students.

In some subjects, such as history, which the Secretary of State has identified as being essential for students up to the age of 16, there has for 15 years been an increasing emphasis on the thinking skills and procedures of the expert historian. There have been analogous movements in the teaching of English, social studies and geography, as well as in Nuffield approaches to science. It is in this tradition that work in "Logic as a computer language for children" is supported by the Nuffield Foundation and involves collaboration with subject teachers and related view of the classroom.

The technology can be used for or ill. Joseph Weizenbaum has eloquently described the dangers of uncritical approaches in his *Computer Power and Human Reason*. Our students are currently encouraged to be passive consumers, playing games whose rules are hidden, receiving answers without explanations. It need not be so. The British education system has a rich and varied history and tradition. It is notoriously slow at reacting to change by adjusting its institutional structures.

What I am proposing draws on traditions and tries to avoid change for the sake of technology. The Secretary of State has called for an improvement in educational standards. At the same time North of England Education Conference has called for the intelligent and appropriate educational use of artificial intelligence and advanced information technology. Both he and I have, in lecturing, identified the teaching of history as being of central importance. The SSRC report suggests possible frameworks for research. The new Curriculum Council offers a way for practical classroom advances. The Alvey report said, to make such educational provision is wholly inconsistent with the aim of education for the future with computers.

An initiative from Government is essential. Teachers have been hampered into accepting a lack of resources and a lack of respect. Despite that, teachers have developed a range of teaching materials and software that are unrivalled in education systems overseas. The MEP programme has served to aid in the dissemination of such work as is available; this policy is insignificant beside the scale of the problem. If the DES is to have a continued existence as a force in education, it must bring educational and curriculum considerations to bear on our approach to the future with computers.

Richard Ennals is a research fellow in the department of computing at Imperial College, London, working in the logic programming group. His book *Beginning micro-PROLOG* was published by Ellis Harwood Ltd and Heinemann in 1982.

Photocopying rule eased

by Nick Wood

Manchester Council has withdrawn its instruction to schools to send in all photocopied material because it fears being swamped by the response.

Instead it has asked heads to supply lists summarizing any school photocopying that might breach the copyright laws and to keep the copied material parcelled up ready for inspection.

The council was forced to issue the instruction after a hearing in the High Court in Manchester. Two publishers are accusing it of breach of copyright.

The case resumes on March 22. When the council issued its instruction just before half term, schools were thrown into panic and many headteachers were resentful that the council had shifted the onus on to them.

Union warns on lobbyists

Teachers have been told by their union not to spend too much time listening to "active lobbyists" on the school staff if they are elected to the post of teacher governor.

The warning comes in a leaflet prepared by the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers.

The union believes that teacher governors should be accountable to the whole teaching staff - adding that: "Undue weight must not be attached to views expressed by active lobbyists."

NASUWT teacher governors should not be drawn into acting as their union's spokesmen at meetings - but the accredited NASUWT school representative should be invited to attend the meeting if union policy is being discussed.

Teacher governors should have a collective system for reporting back from meetings. "There must be no practice, say, of one teacher governor representing NASUWT members and one representing National Union of Teachers members."

Meanwhile, the union has also announced a "generally favourable response" to the Department of Education and Science's policy statement outlining support for a coordinated national initiative aimed at providing all school leavers with a record of their achievements.

Mr Fred Smithies, general secretary, said: "An appraisal of pupils based simply on examination achievement must be both limited and inadequate."



Play mates: Two of the young musicians who gathered at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, this week for the first of the regional auditions for the National Festival of Music for Youth in July. About 4,000 youngsters will take part in the July concerts on the South Bank of whom 1,000 will go on to perform in the Schools Prom at the Royal Albert Hall next November.



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NUT leadership opposes pay restructuring package

by Richard Garner

Two of the key elements in the teachers' pay restructuring package proposed by employers are being opposed by leaders of the National Union of Teachers.

The union's executive will urge delegates at the NUT's annual conference this Easter to declare their outright opposition to annual assessments of all teachers on the "main professional" pay grade that the employers are proposing to set up. It also resents the suggestion that the pay restructuring should be linked to new conditions of service for teachers.

The executive is particularly worried that i.e.a.s would withhold increments from some teachers and offer accelerated incremental progression to a very limited number. It is also determined to resist any worsening of the teachers' contractual position.

In its report to the NUT conference - which sets out a salary strategy for the following year - the executive says that the reaction of other teachers' unions to management proposals for restructuring has been "in many ways both surprising and disappointing".

"While the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers had to accept that the paper raised very real problems and that they did not have the answer to those problems, they were still prepared to

Teachers' leaders rejected a 3 per cent pay offer from their employers as "insulting" when the two sides met on Wednesday.

Tabling the offer at a meeting of the Burnham Committee, Mr Philip Merridale, leader of the management side, warned that even a 3 per cent rise would cause "substantial difficulties" for several local authorities.

He pointed out that i.e.a.s were already being forced to increase

pension contributions by 1.05 per cent. And he added that a bigger pay offer could only be made at the expense of jobs, books and materials and cause the "gravest detriment" to the education service.

The teachers' negotiators, who are pressing for a "substantial" pay rise, are due to meet the management panel again on March 14.

gambles with assessment for salary purposes," the report points out.

If it acknowledges the urgent need to reform the salary structure - but shows there are still wide gulfs between the employers and unions despite the progress that was made during three days of discussions at a Manchester hotel just before Christmas.

Both the Conservative-controlled Association of County Councils and the Labour-led Association of Metropolitan Authorities are anxious that the Government should earmark funds for any agreement in next year's rate support grant settlement.

However, the part of the package that Sir Keith is known to be particularly enamoured of is the section which

relates to the assessment of teachers. Sir Keith Joseph has told teachers' leaders he wants a "copper-bottomed" guarantee that any deal to restructure teachers' pay is watertight and would benefit pupils before he approaches the Cabinet for extra finance.

The question was raised when leaders of the NASUWT went to see him on Monday to discuss the issues raised in his Sheffield speech.

After the meeting, Mr Nigel de Gruchy, deputy general secretary of the union, said: "We were a bit alarmed when he mentioned market forces with reference to our salaries claim - and we asked him what bearing this would have on the restructuring proposals."

ACACE setback

by Maggie Richards

Proposals for a successor to the Advisory Council for Adult and Continuing Education are to be put forward later this month, but they are understood to fall far short of the development agency that adult educators had hoped for.

Recommendations for the creation of a small unit are to be put to the council of the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education. The unit will have a £50,000 budget to cover administrative expenses but it will rely totally on the Department of Education and Science for project funding.

The unit's function will be to build on the many recommendations of the advisory council. It will have the task of drawing up plans for research projects to develop further the council's proposals.

A steering committee comprising DES officials, representatives of local education authorities and the NIACE will consider funding the unit's proposals.

But the unit is a far cry from the development agency envisaged by the advisory council in its "Policies and Practices" document, which took three years to complete, and outlined future strategies for adult and continuing education at all levels.

Dr Richard Hoggart, chairman of the advisory council, commenting on the proposed unit, said this week: "I am not surprised, but it is a great deal less than what is actually needed."

- THES.

NEWS

Strike to back budget rejected

by Richard Garner

Teachers in Liverpool have voted not to back by strike action the city council's plan to introduce an illegal budget.

A meeting of about 2,000 members of the National Union of Teachers has heard that hundreds of jobs would be lost if the labour-run council was forced to back down and implement cuts.

However a motion for strike action was defeated by 100 votes, although it emerged later that half those at the meeting - held in private - had abstained on the vote.

The meeting had been urged to strike on March 29 - the day of the rate-fixing meeting - in support of the council's policy of no cuts in jobs or services.

Mr John Hamilton, city council leader, said that if the council was to

comply with Government spending targets between 3,000 and 5,000 jobs face an increase of at least 70 per cent in their bills.

He added: "We are placed in an impossible situation and if we take the illegal road we want to know that the workforce is with us and with us all the way."

"If you are saying to us: 'Don't take the illegal road, accept Mr. Patrick Jenkin's (the Environment Secretary) Statements' then you're saying to us some of you want your marching orders."

It is no good marching down to the town hall after the budget and asking us not to sack anybody then, if we go down the road of cuts, because we couldn't do that. We are saying we couldn't do that."

redundancies was unlikely to save the council any money in the first year because of the payments involved.

He said the incoming Labour administration in Liverpool had inherited a budget of £218m from the previous Liberal regime - into which some plans for cuts had been built. "The Government had given £118m in rate support grant for that budget."

A "standstill" budget for 1984-85 - allowing for 5 per cent inflation - would mean spending £228m. However, the rate support grant element was being trimmed to £95m.

"Without any improvements, we're £30m short," he added, "and that's a rate increase of 60 to 70 per cent for a standstill budget. For any improvements above that, every £1 improvement comes at a cost of £1.50 in rate increases, so before you can improve

you are you're talking of a rate increase of 100 per cent."

Commenting on the meeting, Mr Jim Ferguson, NUT executive member for Merseyside and general secretary of NUT's Liverpool Association, said: "Of course every teacher wants to retain their job. They weren't voting for redundancy - but they weren't ready in vast numbers to support the motion or convinced the council had a case."

The decision came as a blow to the Labour leadership - following a similar rejected of strike action by the National Union of Public Employees in Liverpool. However, some of the biggest unions in the city council - such as NALGO and the General, Municipal, and Allied Trades Union - have still to decide on their action.

Grammars stay and go

by Biddy Passmore

Sir Keith Joseph, Education Secretary, has rejected one Gloucestershire scheme to close five grammar schools and set up a sixth-form college, but has approved another which involves closing a grammar school and establishing a tertiary college.

The scheme he rejected was for the city of Gloucester, where the second city school population is expected to fall by a quarter. Sir Keith was not satisfied that the changes would be of benefit to "pupils of all abilities" and he felt insufficient attention had been paid to parents' views. He also complained that the sixth form college would be on a split site and that the reorganization required expensive building.

He did, however, approve the council's proposal to reduce the intake to each of the five grammar schools from three forms to two, so that they would not absorb an increasing proportion of secondary pupils.

In the Forest of Dean, the Education Secretary agreed to the closure of the Royal Forest of Dean Grammar School and its merger with a small technical college to form a tertiary.

Jacks of all . . .

College principals must be financial wizards, industrial and public relations experts, politically skilful with the knack of manipulating committees - as well as being good scholars.

This catalogue of virtues was given to the Association of College Principals' annual meeting in London this week by its new president, Dr Alan Barnard, of Wilsden Technical College (pictured left).

Speaking on the changing role of principals, he said requirements for them to be "persons of omniscience" had become increasingly apparent over the past three years.

English tests raise doubts

English advisers have spelt out their misgivings about graded tests in the subject, now the focus of intensive development work by separate groups of i.e.a.s and exam boards based in Oxford, London and Cambridge.

Just because in modern languages that is no reason to suppose they can be applied to English, the National Association of Advisers in English says in a letter to all chief education officers, exam boards and HMI working in the subject.

Such a transfer would be "very dangerous", the advisers say. They reject the notion that a child's knowledge of English grows by putting together graduated segments of language, which are preformulated and measurable, and invoke the Bullock Report to assert that the process is interactive and organic.

"With the emphasis upon the organic nature of English, it is difficult to be anything but sceptical of the feasibility, appropriateness and desirability of introducing graded testing in this subject," they say.

Vital questions about the impact of testing on course content, costs and staffing also must be answered before final decisions can be taken, the advisers add.

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NEWS

No support for heads' probation plan

by Bert Lodge

A proposal that teachers getting their first headship should start off on probation found no support this week among teachers or their employers.

But another idea, that "worn-out" heads nearing the end of their career should be allowed to step down to something less onerous but with safeguarded pension rights, did receive a degree of welcome.

Both ideas were floated by Sir Keith Joseph, Education Secretary, to an invited audience of teacher union and local authority representatives at a one-day conference arranged by the DES on the selection of heads, following the report last December of the POST project, a three-year research programme into the selection methods in all 104 local education authorities.

The report concluded that existing procedures for appointing secondary heads were muddled, unsystematic and conducted "almost exclusively in the dark."

Sir Keith said the selection process could only estimate promise and potential. Performance and effectiveness could only be judged in post.

The National Association of Head Teachers was the first with the voice of opposition. Mr David Hart said that putting a head on probation could

amount to a very positive disincentive to going after the job at all. It was already a high risk occupation with low morale in schools resulting from falling rolls.

"We are now faced in some areas with a shortage of candidates for headship vacancies particularly at secondary level."

Mr John Swallow, NAHT president, pointed out that talking about probation before selection procedures had even been discussed rather invalidated that day's business before they had even started.

Several delegates reminded Sir Keith that it was not usually in the first two years that problems revealed themselves but more likely after at least five years. Mr Hart added: "It's built into the system that a newly-appointed head should be given a decent honeymoon period. The new head on probation will just spend his time as conservatively as possible."

Sir Keith agreed that there was a danger of the imposed probation acting as a disincentive. But he was not convinced the probationary head would feel inhibited from instituting change.

Pointing out that the average age of first time heads was 41, he said "this meant 20 years of demanding work lay

a head. "What if it proves too much? It seems to me that hanging on is no good: to the incumbent, to his or her family nor - this has to be my main concern - to the pupils in the schools."

Premature retirement might be all right for some but too drastic for others "who still have a lot to offer within teaching and who could do so if only could be relieved of the burden of headship." But they were inhibited by the present pension rules, Sir Keith said. So why not change these so the final pension would be made up of two elements?

The first would be in respect of service and salary in the first, more highly paid and demanding post. This would be protected from inflation from the time of leaving that post. The second element would be in respect of subsequent service and salary in the less demanding post.

While this idea was not condemned, the general feeling was that it would not apply to so many as Sir Keith liked to think. Both Mr Hart and Miss Florence Kirby, president of the Secondary Heads Association, made the same point that the vast majority of heads under pressure did not see classroom teaching as an alternative.

Put to Sir Keith, he replied that even if

only a handful of the "worn-out" took the opportunity it would have improved things.

Mr Fred Riddell, chairman of Nottinghamshire education committee and a delegate of the Association of County Councils, said afterwards the idea had not yet been discussed within the association but he thought it would be acceptable to a great number of education committee chairmen.

Mrs Nicole Harrison, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities' education committee, agreed. "These teachers have served you well and you feel a debt of gratitude to them. I can't believe my colleagues would think differently."

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, deputy general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, thought the proposal a get-out for the grossly incompetent. Considering it would mean the authorities having to find more money for an improved pension scheme this might limit their enthusiasm.

A spokesman for the DES said technically Sir Keith could impose his proposal for heads' probation with or without the approval of the profession by an amendment to Teachers' Regulations.

Lone voice against open learning

by Diane Spencer

Adult educationists could be in danger of over-selling "open learning" conference in Birmingham was told.

Mr Peter Clyne, assistant education officer for the Inner London Education Authority, was almost the lone voice raised in criticism of open learning during the past five years.

He said there was a danger of people and of exaggerating what was done. "You cannot liberate education for adults without talking of child-minding, awards and goals," he said.

Local education authorities should consider what to do once Manpower Services Commission money ran out. It would be better to take the money for new courses in the first place if it risked expectations that could not be met later.

Mr Clyne was addressing a conference organized by the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education, the last of a series to discuss development of open learning systems.

Manchester City Council has by example started the Open College Federation, which offers all students a credit for their courses no matter when, how, or where they take them. So far 331 students are working on 38 recognized courses. Credits are recorded in the student's "Study passport" which, it is hoped, will be accepted by employers and higher education institutions.

Nelson and Colne College, in cooperation with Preston Polytechnic, Lancaster University and local further education colleges, has formed the Open College Federation of the North West. It began modestly in 1976 with 76 students. Now there are more than 2,000.

South Bank Polytechnic has recently started the Open College of South London, and now Birmingham education authority has set up an open learning development unit at Garretts Green College.

This will look into the feasibility of offering flexible and packaged courses in nine colleges to local industry. If there is a demand, it will get the support of the Open Tech and the MSC to the tune of £750,000.

Some delegates were concerned lest the colleges were in danger of neglecting community education in favour of vocational training, especially if they accepted MSC or European Social Fund money.

Mr Michael Sterne, senior assistant education officer for Manchester, commented that only the ILA would refuse MSC money. But Mr Clyne replied: "Any authority with principles would do so."

Mr Sterne and Mr David Tinsley, further education officer for Birmingham, had no qualms. Mr Sterne said when applying for money to a fund which was "about training" one should not mention the word student. And there was plenty of money around, he added.

Mr Tinsley thought that the fund for their unit at Garretts Green would benefit the college and students in the long term.

County moves into penalty with bigger budget

A county council has voted to add more than £800,000 to its education budget for the next two years, cancelling plans for voluntary redundancies, but taking it into the penalty bracket.

Shropshire's policy and resource committee's recommendation to cut 24 teaching jobs in secondary schools as a result of falling rolls was overturned by last Friday's full council meeting.

Liberal and Labour groups and the one SDP councillor combined to defeat the ruling Conservatives and the Independents, who normally support the Conservatives on budget matters, by a single vote. One independent councillor was absent.

The education amendments, worth an extra £323,200 in 1984/5 and £497,700 in 1985/6, form most of a package costing the county £910,460 over the next two years. In addition it will be penalized £301,310 in lost central government grants.

This is the first time Shropshire has

budgeted to "overspend". As well as cancelling redundancies the new plans provide for:

- Lecturers for special education at 16-plus;
- Extra resources for children with moderate learning difficulties;
- Increased advisory staff and services;
- Increases in discretionary awards to restore cuts made three years ago;
- More money for the youth service;
- Extra resources for pre-primary children coming up to five; and
- A freeze on school letting charges.

The main non-education item is a £50,000 increase in funding for library service staff.

Liberal leader, Mr Eric Robinson, who lectures at Wolverhampton Polytechnic, explained that the Liberal and Labour groups had reached an agreement after their separate proposals had been defeated in setting last year's budget and then again at the policy committee.

IN BRIEF

Back to the wilds

Hereford and Worcester County Council agreed last week to the education committee's recommendation to scrap school meals and designate parts of school grounds "wilderness areas" to cut the cost of upkeep as part of a package of economies that will release £1.2m within the education budget for next year. The money saved, plus £300,000 culled from cuts in other services, will be used to employ another 175 teachers in primary and secondary schools.

Essay rules change

The rules of *The Times Educational Supplement* Engineering Essay Competition have been amended to make it clear that entries are welcome from teachers and careers officers in training as well as from those already in post. The winning entry in each section wins £500 with a similar amount being paid to the winners' school or college. Full details on page 11.

French coach ban

Coach travel by groups of children has been banned in France over two weekends in July and August. Groups of more than 15 children under 16 will not be allowed on French roads between 3pm on Friday, July 27 and 3pm on July 28, and between 3pm on Friday, August 3 and 3pm the following day. The ban does not apply to normal scheduled services, or to British coaches on local excursions in France. The action by the French authorities follows a motorway crash in 1982 when 50 children died.

Union refusal

Mr Gili Lowenstein, former vice-president of the Southwark association of the NUT in Inner London, who was expelled with Ms Amanda Leon, the association's president, 18 months ago after the association had gone ahead with organizing a half-day stoppage.

Ministers accept science compromise

Ministers have passed judgment on the exam boards' draft guidelines for proposed 16-plus exams in chemistry and biology.

They say there is "much to be welcomed in the proposals", notably the setting out of a core of content for both subjects and the boards' support for exams tailored to the ability of candidates, but they want the Secondary Examinations Council to advise them on some important matters of content.



Rector named

The council of the Royal College of Art, on the recommendation of the Senate, has agreed to appoint Mr Jocelyn Stevens as Rector and Vice-Provost from September 1. Mr Stevens, (pictured), is currently a director of Centaur Communications Ltd. He was formerly chairman and editor of *Queen* magazine 1957-1968, managing editor of the *Evening Standard* 1969-1973 and managing director of Express Newspapers from 1972-1981.

Recommendation that practical skills are best assessed by written papers and believe that 50 per cent of the assessment of practical skills should be carried out through tests in the laboratory at intervals throughout a pupil's course.

In chemistry, Sir Keith Joseph, Education Secretary, and Mr Nicholas Edwards, the Welsh Secretary, say they are worried that the planned core may be too narrow and that radiologically assessed practical skills - to complement coverage of nuclear fuels -

but that separate coverage of chemicals in society, should be subsumed under a much larger core section on the social, economic, environmental and technological contributions and applications of the subject.

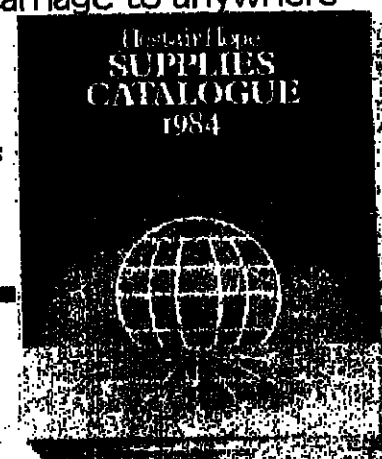
The controversy that erupted over the political implications of physics seems unlikely to blow up again. Ministers have adopted the compromise formula put to them in December when the SEC called for the 16-plus to be given the go-ahead.

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by Bert Lodge and Mike Durham

by Mike Durham

Brian Rees

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Union shy of merger advice

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mainstream schools and colleges. The exam is designed to test the theory of language teaching and learning based on the second language acquisition theory.

These institutions have offered courses to 71 students in all for Bengali, Cantonese, Greek, Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu. Some colleges offer only one language and Moray House is the

Mr Peter Newsam, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, promised the protestors that he would

most known and most popular figure in independent education. He was chairman of IAPS three times and chairman of the Independent Schools Information Society.

"Arts Express" edited by Jonathan Croall and Ken Robinson, available for subscription at £7.80 for the first year.

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1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

NEWS



Hungry for business, British construction firms and educational equipment makers have set sail in search of overseas orders, but most of the biggest contracts have slipped through their nets. Philip Venning explains why.



King Abdul Aziz University, Jeddah: one of the building contracts Britain won in the wake of the Middle East oil boom.

Britain is losing out in a world education market worth billions of pounds a year. In spite of the odd success, such as the well-publicised £300m project to build a university in Oman, where Mark Thatcher (and a few others) acted for the British company involved, British firms have only captured a tiny share of the potential business in the last 10 years.

Millions of pounds have been spent by oil-rich Arab countries and by the developing world on educational books and equipment, school and college buildings and technical training. But most of the contracts have gone to competitors, such as Sweden, which lack the advantages of the English language and Commonwealth links.

Various efforts by the British Government, British Council, and the trade to boost educational exports have so far made little impact. Traditional markets such as Nigeria have collapsed, and the microcomputer business represents perhaps the only glint of hope at present.

Figures are hard to come by, and it is often difficult to distinguish between the education and non-education parts of an overseas project. Does a teaching hospital in the Middle East count as education, for example? But whatever definitions are used it is undeniable that Britain's record is much worse than it should be.

In 1981-2, for example, British firms were awarded only about \$12.5m (£8.4m) worth of World Bank-funded

education contracts, out of a total of \$526m (books, and some smaller contracts are excluded from these statistics).

The amounts vary year by year and one big contract can distort the figures. As the table shows, in 1981-82 British firms got the bulk of their World Bank-aided business from Egypt: only a tenth of the earnings came from construction, which is not typical. Building contracts are where the big money is to be found, though a high proportion of it may go towards paying local labour (and may not directly benefit Britain). Even so, the main British construction companies are not overburdened with education work.

The most obvious example of Britain's failure has been in the Middle East where British firms have had to make do with the crumbs. In 1974 when it was clear that Arab countries would be spending heavily on education, British exporters felt that their chance had come.

A few early victories, such as the

Making do with a diet of crumbs

contract for King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah, or a £12m order from Iran to supply science teaching equipment, were an encouraging start. But since then most of the big projects have gone elsewhere.

EJ Arnold, which receives about 12 per cent of its turnover from exports, made a big effort in the Middle East in the 1970s but was forced to remove its Kuwait-based manager three years

ago. The reasons for the failure were complicated but were partly because the company's strength is in primary education, where there is a tendency to use local materials.

Arnold's main complaint is about Common Market countries, which it suspects of lamb-ear tactics because of the intimidating bureaucracy that confronts anyone attempting to sell for their schools and colleges. The company's chief overseas customers are in the United States and Australia, but its export earnings total no more than about £2m a year.

A similar story is told by Philip and Tacey, which was one of many firms hit by the loss of traditional West African customers like Nigeria and Ghana. The company's Montessori materials sell well in America, but its export income does not yet top £1m a year.

"We've been through rather a bad patch in the last few years," a spokesman said. "But we now have higher hopes because of the improvement in the exchange rate."

Generally Britain does slightly better in selling science and engineering equipment, particularly items related to specialist vocational training. Two years ago a Cambridge firm won a £37m contract to supply training laboratories to Mexico, but it was sufficient to make the headlines.

It was also the result of a long stay in Mexico by a company representative. The Engineering Teaching Equipment Manufacturers Association contains a number of firms that are world leaders, and produce high quality goods that have a world reputation. But it is all on a tiny scale.

The longest-established and most successful arm of our educational exports has been the books business, currently worth between £100m and £200m a year if specialist higher and further education publications are included. The publishers have adapted well to the desire of countries to move

away from British-produced textbooks to locally conceived and produced ones. Even so there is still a demand for British-produced secondary textbooks.

The huge growth of English language teaching throughout the world has been of great benefit to British and the Americans have failed to capitalize on it, according to Mr Ted Reed of the Publishers Association.

In general, foreign competition is less of a worry to publishers than piracy - the tendency of countries like Taiwan to pirate British school textbooks and sell them to Nigeria, for example. They recently launched a £500,000 campaign to fight such piracy.

The last four years have been particularly tough for publishers, due to the combined effects of the recession and political upheaval in Nigeria, Mexico and Argentina, according to Mr Reed. But the future is looking brighter. With a better exchange rate, there has been a dramatic recovery in overseas demand for British books in the last few months.

Longmans, which does two-thirds of its business abroad, encouraged the creation of local companies some time ago. In places such as Hong Kong and Singapore, Longmans holds all the shares in the local companies. Mr Jeremy Osborne, international sales director, explained. In others, such as Nigeria, it owns as few as 40 per cent.

In these cases the direct benefits to Britain through dividends are small, but there are considerable indirect benefits in that local companies are well positioned to sell Longmans books produced in Britain. This is most true in the tertiary field, where competition with the Americans is strong, mainly because they have the economies of scale of a giant domestic market.

By contrast, school furniture, the stationery, is a field where British firms have found it hard to survive. "The Italians have been supplying furniture to the Gulf states at prices which are unbelievable," said Mr John Savage, of the British Educational Equipment Association.

Some modest success has been achieved by PEL International which has furnished various Middle Eastern projects, including educational buildings. Last year, for example, it fulfilled a £300,000 contract to furnish an English language school for the Saudi Royal Airforce. This entailed offering a complete package including audio-visual equipment and other items specially bought in.

Ten years ago British firms recognized that if they were to compete they would need to forget their rivalries and combine to offer package deals, but it is their failure to do this which largely accounts for their poor performance. In fact it is not unusual for British firms

to be sub-contractors to a successful consortium from another country.

It was partly to encourage greater cooperation that various half-hearted Government efforts were made in the mid-1970s to consider what help should be given to educational exporters. The deliberations culminated in a proposal by Lord Young in 1978 for a British Education Exports Council.

It founded over the question of who should fund it, but out of the ruins came a liaison committee - the Education and Training Export Committee - which brings together representatives of relevant ministries such as the Department of Education, Overseas Development Administration, and British Overseas Trade Board, as well as the manufacturers and publishers. The British Council offered to service the committee, and Dr Roddy Cavalieri, deputy director-general became its chairman.

The committee meets quarterly to discuss particular market areas, the development of multilateral development agencies, trade fairs, and other matters of common interest.

The role of the British Council is not accidental. It stems from the view that the British Council should be more commercially minded and use its goodwill to help promote British firms, or training in or by British educational institutions.

According to Dr John Blackwell, director of the council's education contracts department, it is in the field of "the wars" training rather than buildings or pencils - that it has most to offer. It has developed training packages tailored to specific local needs - training construction workers in Sri Lanka, for example; and more recently has moved into project planning. "This is a very demanding type of exercise, for example, drawing up a master plan for technical education in the Philippines," Dr Blackwell said.

The council has also cooperated with firms by providing the training back-up to go with their products and has helped to develop a computer training centre for ICL in Singapore.

The council is heavily involved in the promotion of book exports, generally, through the £1.2m a year English Language Book Society scheme which helps to make available subsidized paperback in Third World countries.

In 1982 the council worked with the Publishers Association to prospect 23 World Bank projects and secured 16 contracts. But, as the council's last annual report said, it has been an uphill task and the amount earned by the council activities has been relatively small - £35m last year (compared with £239m spent by the Overseas Development Agency on technical cooperation).

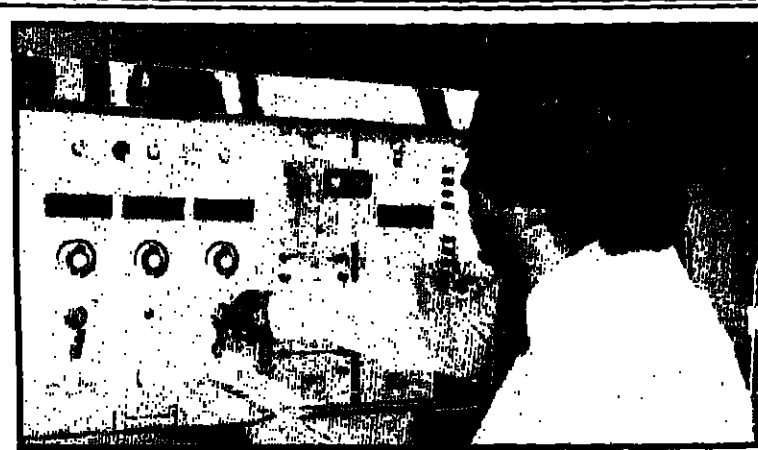
The growing income the council has generated from English language teaching abroad could have spin-offs in other subject areas, the report says. But this would require greater tailoring of courses to local needs. In turn the council would be marketing "British education as a best buy in an expensive world."

Though the three main trade associations - the British Educational Equipment Association, the Industrial Council for Educational and Training Technology, and the Publishers Association, have varying degrees of enthusiasm for what the council has achieved, they generally feel that at an official level too little has been done too late.

Part of this trouble has been that education exports have generally been too small to interest the Department of Trade, the Department of Education (unlike the Department of Health and Social Security) has no direct experience of buying educational materials, and the ODA has traditionally only been interested in aid to the poorest countries.

Of course, some of Britain's development aid does go directly to education exporters. In January, for example, the ODA announced a £2m loan to Jordan to purchase British equipment for five vocational schools for boys. But this was only a small part of a much bigger World Bank project to build 18 new schools in the country, worth over £60m.

Least happy with the work of the Education and Training Export Committee is the BEEA, mainly because what success there has been has been in further and higher education rather than at school level, in which their members specialize.



Engineering equipment for technical institutes in Mexico City was supplied by Darwin Instruments.

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World Bank money, for example, has gone increasingly on primary projects for which countries often want to produce their own materials. Mr John Savage, of BEEA, said the Chinese were taking an increasing interest in British educational products, but a member of a delegation had told him that they made all their own equipment, even down to globes made from bamboo.

At one stage the association had suggested to a British Ambassador in a Middle Eastern country that it could put together a complete primary school package, but was told that a

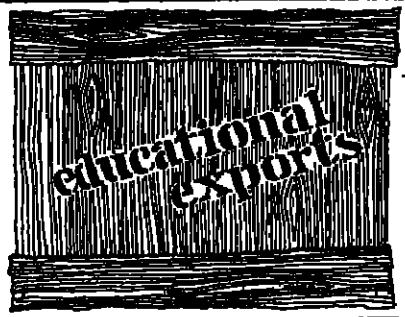
British primary system would be unsuitable in a Muslim country.

The weakness of the equipment manufacturers is that they tend to be small companies, used to fighting each other for the home market, operating in a world dominated by industrial giants like Philips.

Members of the Industrial Council for Educational and Training Technology have done rather better out of the priority given to technical training, but Mr James Wright, its chief executive, remains critical of British further and higher education institutions that have been slow to adapt to this demand and reluctant to take the necessary practical steps such as establishing contracts departments.

"The French, Germans, Americans and Swedes have been very good at selling education on the back of industry, but we have been bad at it." Their educational people were prepared to talk to commercial people, and they were skilled at putting together packages. The Swedes, in particular, had good working links between Government and industry. Much Swedish aid was now tied.

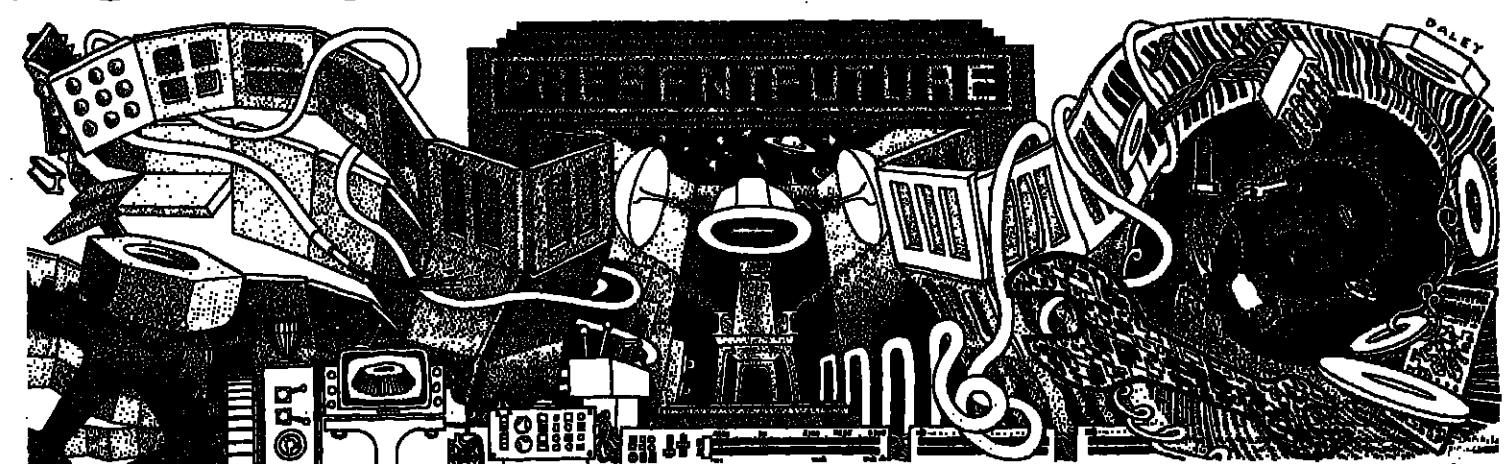
But does Britain's poor performance matter? According to Mr Wright, many of our competitors have made mistakes in the education market. "There is more money being lost in educational markets than is being made. It cannot support large and substantial profits."



Something to build on . . .

Some of the bigger educational projects that British construction firms have been involved in: Wimpey: Laventille Junior Secondary School, Trinidad, 1981 (£7m) and Claxton Bay/Moruga Schools, Trinidad, 1980 (£3.8m). Costain: Belvedere Teachers' Training College, Zimbabwe, 1982 (£4m); University College, Harare, Zimbabwe, 1983 (£3m); Albury West Public School, New South Wales, 1980 (£1.7m) and Toorlina High School, New South Wales, 1978 (£3m). McAlpine: School of Health Technology, Nigeria, 1982 (£10m).

HOW TO MAKE THE FUTURE WORK



The Times Educational Supplement Engineering Essay Competition for teachers and careers officers

Win £500 in the essay competition jointly sponsored by the TES and the Engineering Careers Information Service (ECIS), plus another £500 for your school if you are a teacher.

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2. The benefits of school links with engineering companies
3. Why should more of the brighter students be encouraged to join the engineering industry?

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There will be two categories for prizes:

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2. Careers Officers and trainee careers officers

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Five other prizes of £50

In addition all winners will receive a copy of the comprehensive edition of The Times Atlas of the World

The Engineering Careers Information Service was set up in 1976 to provide information about careers in the engineering manufacturing industry. It is sponsored by the Engineering Industry Training Board, the Engineering Employers' Federation and the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions. ECIS produces literature and aids for young people and those who advise them on career choice and provides teachers and careers officers with opportunities to gain experience in industry.

THE TIMES
Educational Supplement

The Rules

1. The last date for entries is March 31, 1984.

2. Entries should be sent to:

The TES Engineering Essay Competition,
ECIS c/o EITB, PO Box 176,
54 Clarendon Road,
Watford, Herts WD1 1LB.

3. Every entry should be headed by the entrant's full name and address. Entries from teachers should give the name and address of their school or college, those from careers officers their present position and employer.

4. All entries become the copyright of the organisers of the competition, Times Newspapers Ltd., and the Engineering Careers Information Service who may reproduce any entry in whole or in part.

5. Receipt of entries will not be acknowledged.

6. No correspondence can be entered into.

7. The decision of the judges is final.

8. Entries must not exceed 750 words.

The Judges

Lord Carrington, Chairman, General Electric Company PLC.
Baroness Platt of Writtle, Chairman, Equal Opportunities Commission.

Sir Richard O'Brien, Chairman, Engineering Industry Training Board.
Terry Duffy, President, Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

Dr James McFarlane, Director General, Engineering Employers' Federation.
Dr Elizabeth Laverick, Deputy Secretary, Institution of Electrical Engineers.

Ronald Stevenson, Director, Engineering Industry Training Board.
Stuart Maclure, Editor, Times Educational Supplement.

Bob Doe, Features Editor, Times Educational Supplement.

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Entrance requirements: A degree in Education, an Advanced Diploma in Education or an equivalent qualification.
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Further information: The Secretary,
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Contracts awarded to British firms for World Bank-aided education projects 1981-82 (Source: World Bank)

Country	Contract Values - in US \$'000			Total
	Instructional equipment	Construction and other materials	Consultants' services	
Algeria	992		31	693
Bangladesh			234	234
Egypt	7,389	59	258	7,706
Ethiopia			8	8
Gambia	327			327
Greece	27	10		37
Ireland	340			340
Korea	183	449	173	735
Libya	451			451
Malawi			35	35
Mauritius	48			48
Mexico	123	926		1,049
Portugal	14			14
Somalia			44	44
Tanzania			89	89
Yemen, Arab Republic	209			209
Yemen, People's	467			467
Zambia			57	57
Total	10,724	1,481	511	12,444

Continued on Page 11

NEWS

NUT looks at ways to stop sex bias in its key posts

by Richard Garner

Women are under-represented as officers within the National Union of Teachers, says a report prepared for its annual conference this Easter.

The report - approved by the union's executive - is one of the most comprehensive compiled by the union on equal opportunities and makes several recommendations for removing sex bias within the union and in schools.

In drawing up the report various levels of responsibility held by women were looked at: members within local NUT associations; teacher representatives on education committees and within divisions at negotiating level.

The report says there is "a disparity of representation between men and women as unmistakable as it is disturbing".

It says that there is "widespread concern and recognition" of the fact that women are substantially under-represented in key decision-making positions within the union.

It acknowledges progress such as some local branches avoiding the use of sexist language at meetings and fewer "token women" being appointed as representatives.

But it admits that more work needs to be done. It recommends the establishment of an equal opportunities

department at the union's headquarters and an advisory committee on equal opportunities in addition to those set up by the union on primary, secondary and middle schools.

The report rejects the argument that special places should be reserved for women on the union's executive - arguing that this could lead to them becoming the only women on the executive.

It also recommends that the union mount an inquiry into whether local education authorities are the equal opportunities employers they say they are.

It calls on l.e.a.s. to appoint advisers for equal opportunities "who might have a dual role in relation to both boys and girls in the schools and men and women teachers in the employ of the authority".

On tackling sex bias within the curriculum, the report says the union should provide a range of documents which will help teachers to recognize that sexism exists in schools - and how best to eliminate it.

The report concludes that the union should begin immediate discussions with local authorities to secure a commitment from them to the implementation of equal opportunities for all.

A generation 'laid to waste'

A whole generation of young people in the North of England is being laid to waste because of the Government's education policies, the chairman of the North Tyneside education committee claimed this week.

In a Newcastle University lecture to northern educationists Mr Stephen Byers said: "Education has a vital part to play in arresting the downward spiral of economic decay and despair but the educational needs of the region will no longer be met because of the policies of central government."

Educational decision-making was increasingly being criticized, he said. As a result, plans made in London

often did not take into account the special regional requirements of the North.

"In this region we have the lowest staying-on rate in education after the age of 16; the dramatic decline in the apprenticeship system has had a disproportionate effect on our region and we have a large number of long-term unemployed who need to be re-trained," he said.

Mr Byers argued that two developments in particular would have a seriously damaging effect on educational provision - the financial restrictions on local authorities and the White Paper, "Training for Jobs".

"A number of education authorities

in the region, including Newcastle, on my own authority, will be seriously affected by the Government's capping proposals. Starved of resources local authorities will no longer be able to finance the educational initiatives that are so important for the future of our region."

Mr Byers added that the White Paper would increase contributions by transferring 25 per cent of the funding for colleges from local into the hands of the "unaccountable and unrepresentative" Manpower Services Commission which would allocate the resources on the basis of national rather than regional needs.

Firms to clean Kent schools

About 2,100 school cleaners in Kent are likely to be declared redundant as a result of a decision by the Conservative controlled county council to put out the cleaning contracts of more than 500 schools and colleges to private contractors.

The decision means that five firms have been hired to take on the cleaning of educational establishments in 13 of the county's 14 divisions. It is expected to save £800,000 next year and more than £1.25m in each of the following two years.

The contractors have said that they are prepared to consider taking on the existing staff first. Residential special schools and aided schools, as well as a number of small rural schools, will be excluded from the contracts and the authority will still employ caretakers.



Shining examples: Alison Tait, Diana Hayle and Suzanne Miller, pupils at Pigott School, Wargrave, Berkshire, who have been awarded a scholarship for their work on the school's cleaning team.

Mr Frank Panton, the caretaker, said: "They do a marvellous job. They seem to enjoy it and I think it gives them extra respect for the school."

Annal, one of the pupil cleaners, said: "It's a pretty monotonous job, but the money is nice. It's only two hours each evening and doesn't affect our schoolwork at all."

Mr Douglas Waghorn, headmaster, said: "It's nothing to do with shortage of money, it was simply impossible to recruit adults. Any pupil interested in joining the cleaners is interviewed in the normal way and gets paid the standard rate for their age. They do the

See HMI report, 12

16-plus needs only simple changes

by Biddy Passmore

In its critique, the centre's education study group welcomes the decision to set up national criteria in each subject. But it expresses extreme scepticism about the claim by the Secondary Examinations Council to have identified them so quickly.

"We suspect that the claim is no more than a convenient form of words, signifying merely an intention to try to bring the different examination boards more into line with each other," it says.

"It also points out that the increase in course work envisaged would be expensive because it would mean more service training for teachers. The SEC acknowledged this in its advice to Sir Keith but said it would be money well spent."

The CES stresses that examining in course work is much more open to

abuse than normal external examination. It therefore advocates that candidates' achievement in course work should be separately recorded as part of an exam profile. It also says there should be no mode 3 (school-based) examining for the top three grades in any new exam and that school-based candidates should not be forced to do course work.

On the general principle of the proposed change, the centre says the argument that a common exam is necessary because pupils' abilities form a continuum is "fundamentally flawed": rather like refusing to manufacture shoes of differing sizes.

The answer is to cater separately for different parts of the continuum, providing overlap courses and exams at the cut-off points.

SCHOOL TO WORK

Tough front forms against FE takeover

The first steps towards implementing the Government's plan to give the Manpower Services Commission a controlling influence over non-advanced further education have been halted by a formidable alliance of interests.

The local authorities, bitterly opposed to the decision to rob them of control over a large part of college funding, are being backed by powerful groups who are outraged by the way in which it is being done.

Ministers now risk a confrontation on the pattern, if not the scale, of the GCHQ crisis, in which the key issue is becoming their dictatorial style rather than the policies.

The strategy of Mr David Young, the Commission's chairman - first outlined in a TES interview early this month - is to bring the education service together with industry representatives in a steer-

ing group along the lines of the body which is already overseeing the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative.

Last week's Commission meeting was to have endorsed the formation of such a group, but the members refused to do so. Instead, they instructed their officials to seek extensive consultations with all the interests involved.

Mr Young's plan - and his tight timetable for implementation - sank because the TUC's strong block of commissioners refused to go along with it, joining the local authority representatives who would otherwise have been voted down.

The TUC does not feel as strongly about the proposals on college funding as it does about some other parts of the White Paper. It regards the issues as a distraction from the far more consequential proposals to make workers liable

to pay for their own training in various ways.

But it is solidly behind the local authorities in refusing to accept the White Paper announcements as a *fait accompli*, and is insisting that they can only be treated as proposals for discussion.

Following its veto at the Commission meeting it says it is only prepared to join a working group which has the power to examine the proposals rather than the duty to implement them, and only if the local authorities are part of it.

An influential section within the NATFHE leadership who were earlier disposed to accept the Government's plans as unchangeable - and had, in fact, begun informal discussions on their implementation with Mr Young - have now joined their colleagues in refusing to take part in the proposed steering group and in demanding consultation.

Meanwhile the small, but influential, Socialist Educational Association at the weekend urged the Labour Party nationally - in which it includes the Labour-controlled local authorities - to re-examine the whole basis of its relationship with the MSC. It called on its members throughout local government, the education service, and in the unions to have nothing to do with the White Paper proposals.

And Mr John Pardoe, former Liberal MP and head of a private office training organization which has been lavishly praised by ministers and MSC chiefs, called on the private and public sectors of training to unite to oppose the growing power of the MSC.

Edited by Mark Jackson



John Pardoe: White Paper threat

market place will enable it to control the market for training in a quite arbitrary manner. The question for both public and private providers of training is therefore the same - how to ensure that the MSC exercises its monopoly purchasing power responsibly and fairly."

Mr Pardoe was sceptical about the ability of a national steering group to exercise the necessary constraints: the YTS, he said, had shown that decisions were in fact left to local MSC managers, for whose abilities he did not hide his scorn. They were certainly not as well-equipped as college staffs or private trainers to find out what employers wanted.

He said that some private training organizations, like local authorities, felt they had been "led a dance" by the MSC's managers, who had encouraged them to expand training facilities and then left them high and dry "with long term costs and short term funds."

Mr Pardoe added: "The public sector and the private sector should stop treating each other as though we were locked in mortal combat. We have a common interest in a fair and publicly announced purchasing policy by the MSC."

Pardoe seeks a united stand

Mr John Pardoe, the demon king of the private training agencies, this week called on the local authorities to make common cause with them against the Manpower Services Commission.

He warned that they are both seriously threatened by the increased power the White Paper is offering the Commission.

Mr Pardoe, a former MP who was once David Steel's rival for the Liberal leadership, heads Sight and Sound, the office training firm which has succeeded in getting many thousands of the YTS trainees whom the local authority colleges had hoped would be placed with them.

He has been bitterly attacked by local authorities, colleges, and NATFHE for taking MSC bread out of their mouths, and is regarded as the personification of a Government-backed drive to privatize the most profitable parts of further education. He and his organization are held out as a model by ministers.

Mr Pardoe told *The TES* that although the White Paper could be seen as an opportunity for a great step forward in training, the private sector had as much reason as the colleges to treat it with caution.

The MSC, he said, was already so huge a purchaser of training from both sectors that it could be seen as wielding a monopoly power, and the White Paper would greatly increase it. "The sheer size of the MSC's training budgets and its dominance in the

about the proposals and intended first to consult all the parties concerned.

That decision represented a refusal by a majority of the commissioners to go along with Mr Young's view that the Commission had no choice but to implement the Government's decisions.

At the press conference Mr Young said he had no intention of proceeding with the proposals without consultations. He had already received many messages of support from college principals, he added.

Council bodies line up against White Paper

by Biddy Passmore

The education committee of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities voted almost unanimously last Thursday to have nothing to do with the plan to hand over to the Manpower Services Commission a quarter of work-related, non-advanced courses in their colleges. And the Association of County Councils is thought likely to approve a similar boycott at a special meeting in 10 days' time.

The Association of Colleges for Further and Higher Education, whose council will debate the matter in London today, is also expected to back the local education authorities' stance.

But both local authority and college spokesmen privately voiced doubts this week about how long the united front would last. As one put it: "The MSC is not intending to be even-handed and some authorities and colleges will break ranks to get the goodies."

At a meeting in London last Thursday, the AMA education committee agreed by 20 votes to 2 to advise the association's 57 member l.e.a.s. - and their officers and colleges - not to cooperate with the MSC on the implementation of the plan.

Members agreed to take no part in the working group which the MSC officials want to set up to work out how to implement the changes (its establishment was to have been announced after the Commission meeting last Thursday but a decision was deferred).

They resolved to set up their own, all-party group to formulate a positive response to the White Paper.

The association also issued a veiled threat to the MSC on the future of the Youth Training Scheme. Its continued cooperation with the scheme would depend on a return to first principles

agreed by the task group - on the balance between Mode A and Mode B courses, and on trainees' pay - the committee decided.

"This is the last stand," said Mr John Pearson, vice-chairman of the AMA education committee. "If this fails, then there is nothing left."

Conservative and Labour leaders of both associations are angry and offended at the arrogant response ministers gave to their protest when they met at the start of last week.

The ministers - Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, Mr Tom King, the Employment Secretary, Mr Peter Morrison, employment junior minister, and Mr William Waldegrave, environment junior minister - made it clear that the White Paper contained Government decisions and was not negotiable.

While their criticism of authorities' past training record was much more muted than in the White Paper, they said the system needed a "fix" to start new initiatives and keep pace with the scale and speed of modern developments.

But they completely failed to win over even their habitual supporters in local government. Mr Brian Sams, Tory leader on the AMA education committee, told last Thursday's meeting that relations between the Government and the l.e.a.s. were at "an all-time low".

He said there was no evidence that authorities were not meeting employers' training needs, adding that his confidence in the Government's ability to run training was "wearing a bit thin". There had been a succession of scores, he said wearily - job shops, TOPS, YOP - would this be any better?

Mr Neil Fletcher, chairman of the ILEA's further and higher education sub-committee, described the MSC as "the biggest quango daddy of them all". Its record on manpower planning - for instance, on YTS - was "disastrous" and its contacts with employers "a joke".

College governing bodies included far more employers than the Commission's area manpower boards.

The only member of the committee to speak in support of the Government's plan was Mr Brian Meadows, chairman of Birmingham education authority. L.e.a.s. must recognize that the pace of decision-making had quickened, he said, and that there was "built-in inertia" in the education system.

"There are times when the central initiative has got to stop and a central initiative has got to be taken. The total sum to be spent on non-advanced further education would stay the same, he reminded his fellow members, but l.e.a.s. would have to compete for the money. "I don't think that's such a bad thing," he remarked.

But several speakers bemoaned the bad blood that the Government's Technical and Vocational Education Initiative had caused because authorities had had to bid against each other for funds.

Mr Mike Black, chairman of its local government committee, said that under the proposals "a non-elected, non-accountable body, the MSC will be taking policy decisions which have always been determined by l.e.a.s. in response to community needs."

NALGO, the local government officers' union, has sent a detailed response to the White Paper to the TUC expressing "vehement opposition". Mr Mike Black, chairman of its local government committee, said that under the proposals "a non-elected, non-accountable body, the MSC will be taking policy decisions which have always been determined by l.e.a.s. in response to community needs."

Three-way communication urged



John Cassels: user groups

Communications between colleges, employers, and trade unions need to be improved, Mr John Cassels, director general of the National Economic Development Office, told college principals and governors this week.

He advocated the formation of "local user" groups of employers, supported by the Manpower Services Commission and educationists.

In a speech which narrowly skirted the highly controversial thesis of the Government's training White Paper - that the colleges are so out of touch with employers that the MSC must be given the power to redirect their activities - Mr Cassels said that such groups would supplement, but not

supplant, existing arrangements. But echoing the Government's insistence that training and vocational education must become more "market-led" Mr Cassels, a former MSC director, told the conference of the Association of Colleges of Further and Higher Education that bosses must design and update systems to allow adults access to learning.

He warned that it was not a task that could be done purely through the committee structure, but "requires a field force which is constantly and practically in contact with the actual demands of the workplace."

Urging more generous education and training allowances for the unemployed, Mr Cassels said that the rule which allowed adults to take courses for 21 hours a week without loss of benefit was a "useful concession" which should be made more generous.

Mr Cassels pleaded for a minimum entitlement to training for the unemployed, of the kind already achieved in France and Germany.

While it contains some examples of excellent practice, it is believed also to cite cases where state lecturers are teaching irrelevant facts and skills in a boring way.

HMI's will back findings

A report to be published later this month by Her Majesty's Inspectorate will provide some evidence for the Government's view that local colleges are not meeting the training needs of modern industry, writes Biddy Passmore.

The report, which examines the findings revealed at a recent meeting between

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As Labour launches its new deal on higher education, Andrew Bennett, Opposition spokesman, says that the Government's discussions reveal divisiveness and short-term planning

A bridge into the future



Andrew Bennett

The call by the Education Secretary for a debate on the future of higher education is to be welcomed. Unfortunately, too much of this debate is taking place within the two segregated sectors—the universities and the public higher education institutions. To be of real value the debate must encompass all sectors and the decision resulting from that debate must be taken jointly.

With the National Advisory Body and the University Grants Committee already in existence we need a new body with equivalent status for adult and continuing education. Then we need to create a national forum for all higher education. This could be achieved by combining the existing secretariat for the NAB, the UGC and the new body for adult education, and setting up a joint council composed of the three bodies. Such a body would offer a continuing forum to debate the objectives of the system and to plan the best use of resources across it.

Central to any national debate on higher education must be the level of resources it can expect to receive over the next 10 to 20 years. There is no argument to suggest that higher education should receive less of our gross national product over that period than it does now. Unless our economy and oil revenues are appallingly mismanaged, we ought to be able, at least, to sustain existing levels of higher education expenditure.

Oil resources are, at present, keeping the economy buoyant, but these will not last for ever. It is logical to ensure that we have large numbers of well-educated people to help us find new means of creating wealth when the oil revenues are reduced. Expenditure in higher education is, therefore, an investment for the future.

The debate on higher education has got off to a bad start because of the

Just as the Government has encouraged higher education to 'funnel through' the bulge of 18-year-olds, it ought now to be encouraging it to 'bridge over' any shortfall in the 1990s.

atmosphere created by the Government, first, in suggesting that 'resources will have to be curbed'; and secondly, by seeking to justify this on the basis of falling numbers of pupils aged 18 in the 1990s. Many people have questioned the Department of Education and Science's forecast of likely student numbers based on the number of 18-year-olds in the 1990s, and I am glad to say the DES is now reviewing the estimation.

However, it is not sensible to plan the size of higher education based on demographic trends over a short period of time. Most of our higher education institutions have taken many years to become established and it is wrong to attempt to dismantle them overnight. It is madness to do this if new institutions then have to be created five or ten years later. Just as the Government has encouraged higher education to 'funnel through' the bulge of 18-year-olds, it ought now to be encouraging it to 'bridge over' any shortfall in the 1990s.

This could be done by recruiting mature students, offering second chances to those who missed out during the bulge years, by raising standards and by recognizing that many are aged due to the rapidly changing nature of society, we need to

develop recurring education.

It is regrettable that our higher education system is so elitist and that the present climate of restricting funds will make it more so. Some institutions will be tempted to reject candidates they define as socially marginal: women, mature students and others whose claim to admission may seem slightly less legitimate than 18-year-old males. Institutions will avoid risk when distributing scarce resources: candidates with unusual qualifications, and those from schools or colleges with little experience of higher education will tend to be rejected in favour of safer choices.

Contraction will also encourage institutional conservatism. Experiments with new courses and new admissions procedures will have to compete with established arrangements and are likely to lose.

The age participation rate of 18-year-olds in advanced education could rise significantly if certain policy initiatives were taken. First, by providing support for 16 and 17-year-olds on full-time courses (£25 per week at 1983 prices). This would increase the number of young people (especially from non-professional backgrounds) staying on in full-time education after 16 and then entering advanced courses.

Secondly, by improving financial support for students in full-time education, including the eventual abolition of parental contributions to the maintenance award. Thirdly, by encouraging institutions to accept more non-traditional applicants, for example, those with business and Technician Education Council qualifications, those with a mixed combination of subjects, and mature students.

The problem of encouraging more mature students to take advantage of higher education needs closer scrutiny. Adults need to enter the education system at the time and level best suited to their own circumstances and should be able to proceed through the system at varying paces. The structure of university courses needs to be made more flexible to enable a greater number of students to study part-time.

There also needs to be greater provision of bridging courses designed to prepare adults for higher education. Some of these courses would be alternatives to the present O and A level GCSEs which were not designed to meet the needs of adults.

For 18-plus students from middle-class homes, one of the most significant factors in going into higher education is parental encouragement and guidance, and the fact that they are following an expected and approved pattern of behaviour. Working-class students, mature students, and many students from ethnic minorities are not following an established pattern. They have a much more complicated path to higher education. It is little wonder that they are under-represented in our institutions.

For these types of students we need to establish an educational counselling service which will replace the guidance from the traditional sixth form tutors or from knowledgeable parents.

The final point that must be stressed is the importance of income support for students. Reducing student income by cutting the real value of grants and increasing charges is seen as the easy option in a period of cutting back on resources. Such a policy will mean that more and more students will end up with heavy overdrafts and will result in a policy of 'back-door' loans.

It will also mean that due to a

preponderance of financial worries, many students will not be able to derive full benefit from their education. It will reduce the number of mature students coming forward and will hit students from lower income groups the hardest. Part-time students must either have grants to meet the cost of their fees, travel and books or they should be asked to pay only very modest fees. The consideration of adequate income support is essential access to higher education is to be maintained or expanded.

The higher education system we have had must develop and adapt itself to meet the challenges of the late twentieth century, but this can be done only through informed debate and the formulation of some kind of consensus on higher education policy. It must not be arbitrarily contracted simply to meet the Government's short-term expenditure plans.

Andrew Bennett, MP, *Denise at Reddish, is the Opposition spokesman on higher education.*

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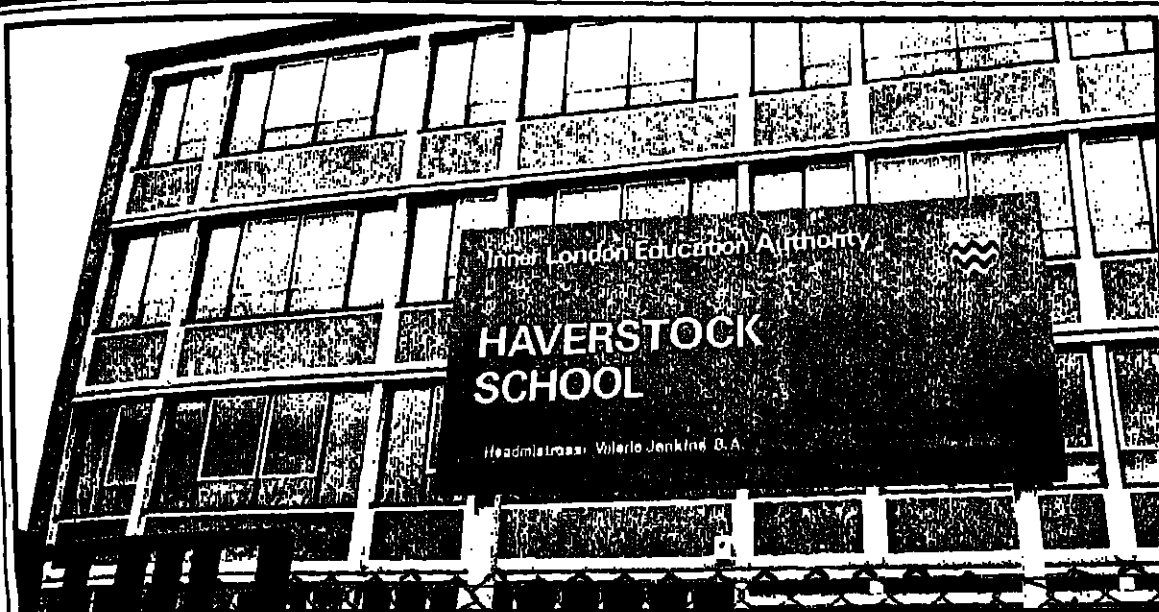
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Wolsey Hall, Oxford



Asbestos: why ILEA puts health before disruption

Science lessons have had to be held in a temporary hut at Haverstock Secondary School, North London, since last summer, as a result of a long-drawn-out asbestos removal exercise which highlights the problems that the lethal building material is posing for local education authorities.

Councils are caught in the dilemma of whether to disrupt education by carrying out systematic asbestos removal, or to expose children to a possible health hazard.

The Inner London Education Authority has pledged itself to stripping asbestos from all its schools, although the process can create fresh hazards and result in huge bills. ILEA estimates that the removal exercise could take 10 years and cost £50m — as yet there is no sign that the Government will give financial assistance.

An ILEA spokesman said that emergency asbestos stripping in schools had already cost £3m, which had to be drawn from their maintenance budget. "We asked central government for a contribution to our asbestos removal programme back in August, and have received no proper reply. Our expenses are entirely rationed."

Along with Manchester metropolitan district, ILEA is in the vanguard where asbestos removal is concerned. Many other authorities, including Newcastle, have an *ad hoc* removal policy.

Their policy is not to tamper with "inert" asbestos. Instead they only strip the material when it has become dangerously exposed, through building work, or accident, thus exposing harmful fibres.

ILEA asserts there is no proven "safe level" of asbestos dust, and "all-out may occur at any time." While disruption of lessons is regrettable, we have to weigh this against the unacceptable potential risks from asbestos dust," the spokesman said.

In the case of Haverstock School in Chalk Farm, the stripping went according to plan. But the clearing-up operation was fraught with problems.

In fact, it took eight separate attempts, using different methods, before one classroom alone could be bronzed free of asbestos fall-out.

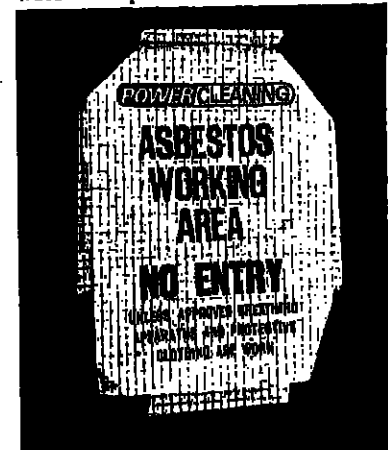
An ILEA spokesman explained: "After the satisfactory air tests, the medical advisers gave the all-clear for the area to be put back into use in September."



Adriana Coudray reports on the problems of one school which is having the exposed building material removed

Then pellets which had been contaminated with asbestos fibres were brought out of storage, and dust was spread through corridors and other areas.

She said the disruption caused at Haverstock was unusual, though not unique. "This does happen in some schools because we are still feeling our way, but Haverstock is probably the worst example."



Over the decision on whether or not to strip asbestos, and what fibre count should be achieved afterwards, all authorities are feeling their way. ILEA is trying to achieve an exacting count of 0.01 fibre of asbestos per millilitre of air in three-quarters of the air samples taken after the stripping. The samples are taken after disturbing the atmosphere with a "simulated springclean."

Authorities are having to make independent decisions because the Government has issued only general guidelines. Whilst there is firm legislation on asbestos levels in an occupational setting — of 0.5 fibre per millilitre for white and 0.2 f/ml for blue and brown — there is none to govern asbestos in public buildings. Neither does the Government acknowledge definite health hazards associated with

the three types of asbestos which were widely used in buildings are commonly found in boiler and pipe lagging, and roof and ceiling tiles.

Inhalation of asbestos dust is associated with asbestosis, lung cancer and malignant mesothelioma. Crocidolite (blue asbestos) is widely considered more harmful than Amosite (brown asbestos) or Chrysotile (white asbestos) although many local authorities are no longer differentiating between the three types.

The advice from the Department of Education and Science is not to remove asbestos from schools "indiscriminately". A DES spokesman said that education authorities were referred to the Department of the Environment's booklet *Asbestos Materials in Buildings*.

Asbestos in buildings.

An Advisory Committee on Asbestos, set up by the Government in 1976, reported back three years later. "Our evidence of the non-occupational risk is not such to prompt us to recommend the general removal of asbestos from buildings. Present evidence suggests that dangers from asbestos in buildings are only likely to arise when asbestos fibres are released into the air, when products containing asbestos are damaged, either accidentally or during maintenance and repair."

Dr Peter Corcoran, of the Environmental Pollution division of the Department of the Environment, also adopts a non-alarmist approach. "It is important to keep the asbestos problem in perspective," he said. "It's largely in an occupational context that it is known to be dangerous."

"Trying to estimate the risk to the general public is very difficult. The advisory committee's conclusion was that the risk was very small. I see no reason why schools should be different from other environments."

But he added: "Children deserve a greater level of attention and protection." The advisory committee itself pointed out that "susceptibility to cancer may be increased in the very young," through exposure to asbestos fibres.

It is also recognized that schools face particular problems because energetic, or playful schoolchildren are likely to disturb asbestos.

In Manchester, surveys are being conducted in preparation for a removal programme in all council buildings. Mr Bernard Lappin, the city's safety officer said: "If work is going on in a school, that means asbestos is being disturbed, and so it will be dealt with there and then." But he added that the city would eventually get round to removing it from all schools.

In Newcastle, however, the approach is to let sleeping dogs lie. Mr Michael Hopwood, the city's health and safety welfare manager, said that asbestos which was in a safe and inert state would not be touched. "At the moment we are coping with the asbestos problem as and when we find it in our routine maintenance," he explained. Unlike Manchester, the north-eastern authority does not propose to carry out surveys to locate possible danger areas.

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OVERSEAS

The drugs danger that threatens primary pupils

WEST GERMANY

Caroline Cuss on an alarming trend affecting up to a third of all German schoolchildren.

One or two children in every 10 in the first year of primary school in Germany take some sort of pill or potion to improve their school performance, according to a children's protection agency. Overall, between a quarter and a third of all German schoolchildren regularly take tablets or pills.

The pills range from harmless things like vitamins and glucose to dangerous drugs such as tranquilizers and speed. Professor Walter Barsch, president of the German Union for the Protection of Children, says:

Professor Barsch attributes this growing tendency to the increasingly competitive nature of life for young people in Germany, with both university places and apprenticeships directly dependent on school reports and exam results, and parents doing

their utmost to get their children into a grammar school.

A 1982 survey by the Federal Centre for Health Education showed that 36 per cent of parents were prepared to give their children medication to help them over difficulties at school or to boost their performance.

And although some of these might not be harmful, Professor Barsch still fears they can instil a psychological reliance on the notion that there is a pill for every problem, and lead on to later addiction.

In *Child Protection Today* he identified a trend towards producing the "standard-super-clean-child" a child who conforms to an ideal behaviour pattern laid down by adults.

Herr Werner Rothenberger, specialist drugs adviser in the Frankfurt Schools Department, said parents often allowed children to watch disturbing television programmes late in the evening, so that they arrived at school the following morning tired and fractious. The children might then be taken to see a doctor and be given a drug for a condition which is not usually pathological.

This fear of later addiction appears justified. The age at which children begin experimenting with cannabis is sinking, and has dropped up in Frankfurt primaries over the past eight months, according to the city's parents' committee.

The increase in heroin addiction is also causing concern - Berlin was said to have 8,000 addicts in a report from the Senator for Education, Youth and Sport. Investigations in other German cities suggested that one in three youngsters had experimented at least once with cannabis.

The problem is not, of course, exclusively German; the recently released report of the UN Commission on Drugs Control shows how the use of hard drugs has gone up alarmingly all over Western Europe in 1983.

In Germany, the dimensions of the problem vary from state to state. Frankfurt is a particular trouble spot, and has been chosen by the Hesse Government for an experiment in preventative therapy. In 1981-82, 150 of the city's schools chose one of their teachers to act as resident adviser on drugs.

Bid to toughen cash controls prompts protest

SPAIN

Sarah Jane Evans on the reaction to the Right to Education Bill

The debate in the Cortes, Spain's parliament, on the Right to Education Bill reached its climax this week, prompting a demonstration last Sunday in the centre of Madrid.

The march was organized by four groups representing different sectors of private education: the Confederación de Centros de Enseñanza (representing 95 per cent of the schools), la Federación de Religiosos de la Enseñanza (Roman Catholic staff: the Church educates over a quarter of young Spaniards, in Church schools), La Federación de Sindicatos Independientes de Enseñanza (unions), and La Confederación Católica de Padres de Familia (parents).

The new Bill was foreshadowed in the victorious Socialist Party's manifesto before it came to power just over a year ago. But other legislation has taken precedence, including the long-overdue University Reform Act, and the legislation to give the regions much greater devolved powers, over education policy, among others.

What is causing the storm in the Senate and in the private school sector is the Bill's proposals on private education.

Thirty years ago the Church educated two-thirds of Spanish children, although in the 1970s this proportion started to decline. Church schools still retain a high status, though their elite reputation has been threatened in recent years by secular private schools.

At present, state schools are subsidized almost 100 per cent, and parents pay 400 pesetas (just over £2) a month per child.

The private schools are subsidized for the compulsory education they provide, though they are free to finance the Baccillerato and university-preparation courses as they wish.

The room for manoeuvre for the heads of private schools has hitherto been substantial, and the subsidy was distributed on the basis of the number of classes taught, not the numbers of students.

There are currently three hundred thousand children of school age who are not in full-time schooling, and the aim of the Bill, as its name suggests, is to bring all those children into education.

Private schools have been able to administer their own education, and this has led to a number of abuses. Under the proposed system, no school that wishes to receive subsidy (which will be 100 per cent, with a parents' contribution) will have to submit to several controls.

The same staff will have to be paid the same salary as teachers in state schools (they currently receive less on average), and each school will have to submit a school council, made up of parents, staff and pupil representatives, as well as the head and the proprietor.

The Catholic staff association (CECE) sees the law as an infringement of liberty saying "it degrades our goal of Christian education" and is on this basis that the law, once passed in the Cortes, will be referred by its opponents to the Constitutional Tribunal which adjudicates on the legality of all government actions.

Julio Carabana, who has been working at the Ministry of Education on the Bill, is quite clear about why the private schools are protesting. "The law may try to hide under the mantle of Christian ideology, but the reality is money." The schools argue that the government is underestimating the cost of educating a child, and that the bill will be out of pocket. The ministry reckons that it costs 60,000 pts (£24) to educate a child for a year in a state school; the CECE puts the cost at 76,000 pts (£354) in a private school, and 81,000 (£368) in a public school.

The passage of the Bill through the Senate looks like breaking records: the right-wing grouping of parties, the Grupo Popular, has tabled 4,100 amendments to it. In all, there are 4,373 amendments, and if each one is given 10 minutes' debate and there were to be 12 hours debate a day, it would take 60 days to debate them all.

Still, the press secretary for the socialist group in the Senate is confident that his MPs will endure the long sessions of delaying debate set up by the Grupo Popular. "After all, we're younger than they are."

Communication must be the aim of foreign languages

Sir - The alarm and misgivings provoked by Richard Bird's speech at Bradford University (TES, January 13) derive, at least in part, from his suggestion that disquiet at the dominance of French in modern languages teaching may be ill-founded. His own guarded support for the status quo rests, however, on the altogether dubious premise that "the main aim of exposure to a foreign language" in secondary schools is "the acquisition of learning skills".

The main aim of exposure to a foreign language at all levels of education must surely be acquisition of the ability to communicate in that foreign language, and the decision which language to teach must be informed by a

range of cultural, political, and economic considerations. Such considerations might justify parity for French with, say, German, Spanish and Russian, but would also suggest that the present position is indefensible.

It is imperative that we move to a situation where all secondary schools offer at least two foreign languages on an equal basis and local education authorities include at least four foreign languages in their total provision of language teaching. With sufficient will and determination, there is no reason why these objectives could not be achieved by the end of the decade.

STEVE GILES
Lecturer in German
University of Nottingham

Prep policy

Sir - I share the alarm expressed by your correspondents about the appalling suggestion that French may have a monopoly of the foreign languages taught in state schools and about the general contraction of modern languages in the curriculum.

Unfortunately, there are also ominous rumours about the future policy for modern languages in independent schools, namely that the start of French be postponed from the age of eight or nine to eleven. If implemented, such a proposal would, it seems to me, have four disastrous consequences:

1. I would conclude the teaching of French to younger children, teaching that has in many, though not all, cases been very successful and which has provided hard evidence of the advantages of an early start;

2. Because fewer teachers of French would be required, it would undermine the highly desirable setting by ability that is possible in the larger preparatory school;

3. In the smaller schools the French teacher would find that his subject occupied only half his timetable, and so would be compelled to teach other subjects. This would result in difficulty in recruiting those who were both dedicated teachers and committed specialist linguists, and in turn lead to a lower standard of tuition;

4. Second foreign languages would disappear in preparatory schools, just as they are becoming well established, enjoyable and beneficial.

There is obviously a pressing need for all teachers of modern languages to defend their discipline in all types of education, especially at a time when communication with our fellow Europeans is so important.

RHOWESTLAKE
Head of Modern Languages
Crosfield School
Reading

Points of view

Sir - I should like to respond to Richard Garner's article on teachers' wages (TES, February 17) by pointing out that as a graduate teacher with five years in the profession, I earned £7,177 in the year ended March 31, 1983.

ANDREW ROBSON
1 High Street
Berkshire

Sir - I am not quite sure what Mr Storms means when he says that the work of teachers is vastly more important than that of caretakers (Letters: TES, February 17). I am even less sure that I agree with him.

What I am sure of is that I am enormously grateful for the work of people such as himself who make my job as a teacher not just easier and more pleasant but actually possible.

BARRY GRAY
24 Balmoral Road
Chillingham
Kent

Too insular

Sir - As a student of French, German and Spanish at school, and now a teacher of English as a foreign language, I read with some interest the regular whimpers from foreign language teachers who complain that their subjects are losing popularity with pupils and are being squeezed out of the curriculum.

I suspect that mutterings about the need for national proficiency in foreign languages to improve business relations overseas, are not taken in the least bit seriously by anyone, either the person in the street or those in positions of authority.

I am frequently abroad, employed as a trainer of teachers of English as a foreign language in other countries. Two facts constantly embarrass me.

1. As a nation we are so insular that we do not place the learning of other people's languages at any premium while other countries are remarkably efficient at teaching our language.

2. The methods employed by what I suspect is still the majority of modern language teachers in this country have long since been abandoned in many countries.

There is a basic contradiction in arguing the need for communicative proficiency while using methods which ignore the primacy of speech and which do not appear to be in the slightest bit aware of the findings of linguistic studies this century.

If teachers of modern languages are concerned at the demise of their subject (and they should be), I would suggest that they have a look at what the rest of the world is doing. If they attempted to make their subject more relevant to the needs of their students in both content and method, I imagine it might become a more attractive option.

CAROLYN WALKER
The Places
Fore Street
North Molton, Devon

Sir - I am fed up with STOPP. I am fed up with sociologists. I am fed up with Dr Muffett.

RGBOWERS
Headmaster
Lane End Junior School
Cheshill
Cheshire

Sir - Christopher Price may know where Northumberland is, but I am surprised by his ignorance of modern Nigerian history (TES, February 17).

D J Muffett's book *Concerning the British* is not about "tribal warfare" but the British conquest of northern Nigeria. According to some scholars, the ruthlessly parsimonious educational policies of the administration thus established, by contrast with the much greater mission-assisted educational expenditures in southern Nigeria, contributed greatly to the regional tensions that finally erupted in the Civil War 1967-70; grist to the mill, I would have thought.

PAUL RICHARDS
2 Wordsworth Road
London SE

LETTERS

The Production Engineer

...the production engineer...
...the production engineer...
...the production engineer...

The Assembly Worker

...the assembly worker...
...the assembly worker...
...the assembly worker...

Sexist pack

Sir - It was with interest that I read of the TES Engineering Essay Competition for teachers and careers officers, sponsored jointly by TES and the Engineering Careers Information Service (ECIS), and including an element "Women Into Science and Engineering (WISE)" (TES, November 25, 1983).

I work as a tutor-librarian in the college library, so imagine my surprise when, next day, I found myself about to process a careers information pack called "The Quality Circle Project", produced by the same ECIS, yet which seemed too grotesquely sexist to merit placing on the shelves.

In the "Task Analysis" part of the pack, of the five people employed in engineering production, four are men, three of whom occupy the higher

points in the hierarchy: production engineer, quality controller and supervisor. Although the woman possesses three CSE passes, she occupies a position inferior to that of the supervisor, who has no examination passes!

The greatest insult, however, lies in the illustration of the material: whereas the men are permitted unattractive, rumpled suits yet exude an air of "manly" authority, the one female is represented by crude caricature, lurching over her piecework in pose of vacant titillation; her style of speech is "chatty", while the only creases in her outfit are predictable. The point is that the woman is defined entirely in terms of her sexuality, a feature as irrelevant to this context as it is for the men.

ELIZABETH ALLEN
Library Department
York College of Arts and Technology

Joining in

Sir - It seems unfortunate that Kent and O'Brien's "Separate development" (TES, January 20), in what appears to be a sensitive attempt to manage resources in response to their pupils' needs, have misunderstood the motives of music advisers in their advice to primary schools.

Contrary to their opinion, encouraging class teachers to involve themselves in music with their classes is not an expediency to overcome a lack of qualified music teachers. It is rather a desire to encourage teachers with skills

(admittedly often lying dormant) to involve their pupils in the personally liberating activity of exploring and composing in the artistic medium of music.

Unfortunately, teachers of the craft of manipulating the tools of music are rarely equipped to handle the deeper inter-reactive processes needed to undertake a good creative programme.

PAUL TWEDDELL
General adviser
(School Support Services)
Tameside Metropolitan Borough

Race issues

Sir - I must record my disgust at the distorted view of what I said reported in your article "Black staff urged to speak out on racism" (TES, February 17).

The whole thrust of my contribution was that black teachers should seek to form alliances with white colleagues who were truly committed to combating racism in education. I commented in my observation that to date black teachers have not been sufficiently vocal in highlighting the way in which the belief in white superiority is being transmitted in schools. However, at no stage did I argue that only black teachers could bring about changes in attitudes. That is too great a burden to lay on the shoulders of my black colleagues.

Changes in attitudes can only be made by the people who hold the negative attitudes. I am not as obsessed with changing teachers' attitudes as your article implies, but I am concerned with changing the structures and practices in education which perpetuate racism.

Your article failed to report the distinction I made between "liberal" teachers and those who were really committed to anti-racist education. I think that it is time for your paper to examine the real issues in the debate on anti-racist/multicultural education.

The issue is to often presented as a socio-political debate. In an area like Brent, it must be a central educational issue if teachers are to comply with Section 7 of the 1944 Education Act, which states that "... it shall be the duty of the local education authority for every area ... to meet the needs of the population of their area."

The main factor in the debate is therefore the matter of professional integrity and not of attitude.

GERRY DAVIS
General adviser
Education Department
London Borough of Brent

Anne Good discusses a report by the European Commission Britain bottom of the migrant education table

British schools and education authorities pay less attention to the needs of migrant children than their counterparts in other EEC countries, according to a report prepared by the European Commission. The Commission criticized all EEC countries on their provisions for migrant education, but Britain, the report shows, comes out as one of the worst when compared with other countries which have large proportions of migrants in their schools.

The Commission fears that in the present climate of economic crisis and growing racism, migrant children are particularly vulnerable to educational failure and resulting unemployment. The Social Affairs Commissioner, Mr Ivor Richard, has warned that legal action will be used if necessary, to force member governments to fulfill their obligations towards these children.

In the UK, special programmes to help migrant children adjust to the school system exist mainly in primary schools and to a certain extent at the secondary level. But the Netherlands, for example, has help available for pupils at all levels, from the nursery school to the end of school life. The Dutch government and local authorities have appointed national coordinators and educational advisers on migrant teaching to help schools devise these programmes.

Bavaria's assistance to migrant children also goes beyond compulsory schooling to include, for instance, 23 experimental schemes in nursery schools.

The commission report criticizes the British authorities for abdicating their responsibilities by leaving it mainly to community centres to teach migrant children their language and culture of origin. Other EEC countries do this within the normal school timetable.

While only about 2.2 per cent of children from non-English speaking backgrounds in the UK get mother tongue teaching at school, Dutch primary schools organize such classes for 80 per cent of their pupils. This does not extend to secondary schools, however, where only 1 per cent of Dutch pupils benefit from language classes. The Dutch government proposes to remedy this in the near future and has already managed to improve matters by making a series of bilateral agreements on language and culture teaching with Italy, Turkey, Morocco and other countries sending migrants to the Netherlands.

Berlin, with a high proportion of migrants in its schools, is also making

efforts in this field.

There, the European Commission is financing a pilot project on the possibility of offering Turkish as a first or second foreign language in secondary schools.

Like the UK, Berlin is criticized for leaving much of the teaching to outside bodies and for keeping the systems of mother-tongue teaching, inside and outside schools, divorced from each other. But unlike many British local authorities, Berlin provides rent-free premises and subsidies to the groups organizing these classes.

In certain aspects of teacher training, too, Britain lags behind other major host countries. Although the report praises the initial and in-service training provided in the UK for ordinary teachers it points out that the overwhelming majority of mother tongue teachers work in community centres and have little access to in-service training.

By contrast, France, which hosts almost a million migrant children, has been making major efforts since 1975 to co-ordinate training by setting up special centres linked to teacher training colleges in large migrant areas.

These "training and information centres for the education of migrant workers' children" (CEFISM) organize courses, seminars and working meetings; provide information to teachers, carry out studies and surveys and produce teaching material. The CEFISM have set up pilot schemes on teaching migrant children part-funded by the European Commission.

A similar special unit for migrant teaching has been created within the Institute for In-Service Teacher Training at Dillingen, in Bavaria.

Emphasis has been put on training foreign teachers. For example, four regional and 40 local courses for teachers of Greek and Turkish origin have been organized.

The commission report outlines progress made by member countries in implementing the EEC directive in force since 1981, which sets out the basic conditions necessary to give children of migrant workers from other EEC countries an equal chance with children of locally-born parents.

When member governments adopted the directive they also expressed the "political will" to provide similar assistance for migrant children from non-EEC countries. The commission used this commitment to ask governments what they were doing about the total estimated 2.5 million



UK programmes are mainly in primary schools.

The secrets of continuing success

GREECE

Mario Modiano reports on the phenomenon of Athens College.

Of mathematics scholarships awarded by Trinity College, Cambridge, this year three went to graduates of Athens College. Another graduate of the college won a top scholarship in physics to Balliol, Oxford, and five more leavers are currently keeping their fingers crossed, hoping to win scholarships at Imperial College, London.

For this leading Greek school, alma mater of several leading Greeks, including the Prime Minister, Mr Andreas Papandreu (class of '38), this was just another vintage year.

What makes Athens College so successful?

Dr John Summerskill, the American president for the past five years, believes that it is a combination of talented, hand-picked teachers, a first-class GCE Department, high standards all round, and students eager to work harder than average.

In 1978, four Athens College graduates made Cambridge, several had scholarships at Harvard and Cornell. In 1980, four went to Trinity College, one to Oxford. In 1982, out of 23 applications to British universities, 22 were accepted. Last year the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Princeton, and Yale awarded scholarships to college students. "Most of the highly selective American universities know that grades here are meaningful," Dr Summerskill said.

Ever since it was founded 59 years ago by a small group of public-spirited Athenians who were soon joined by Americans, the college has sought to impart "the finest academic training available in Greece". Greek and American educators joined forces in a rare experiment of beautiful cooperation, as American methods were adapted to Greek traditions.

Over the years, the college has expanded from being a secondary school for boys only, to taking boys and girls of all ages and providing one more year's tuition than corresponding Greek pre-university studies.

The college is situated on a 40-acre pine-covered hill in Psychiko, north of Athens, and its main campus contains 10 major buildings, a chapel, and seven faculty houses as well as vast sports grounds. The 45,000-volume library is the largest school library in Greece. A £1.3 m theatre was built last year with American government aid.

The establishment of another 40-acre campus for the elementary school in 1977, increased the school's total capacity to 3,100 students - 1,700 in the six-year elementary school and 1,400 equally divided between the three-year gymnasium and four-year lyceum. There is a faculty of 250 teachers, one-tenth of them man-

Greek. English is a required subject from the age of nine, and by graduation the students are effectively bilingual. Of the 165-odd students who graduate each year, about one-third plan to go to British or American universities.

"Our best students come from families who want demanding education," Dr Summerskill says. "Many people think we are a school for Greek shipowners. We certainly have children of shipowners here, but we also grant 360 scholarships each year to deserving students."

The cost of these grants is about £200,000 a year, which is added to the school's growing deficit (£20,000 a year) as the college, which is a non-profit institution, suffers from government restrictions on increases in private tuition fees, despite the mandatory rises in teachers' salaries.

An SOS ("Save Our School") fund drive for about one million pounds is being launched to cover the deficit, and help repay the bank loan used to complete the second elementary school at Kavazza, to ease an annual waiting list of 1,500 for 270 admissions.

Dr Summerskill says that London-based Greek shipowners, old alumni of the college, or those who send their children there, are rated among the top benefactors.

"Athens College," he says, "is educating more people who are now Greek public life than any other school."

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LETTERS

Setting the record straight

Sir - Your editorial response (TES, February 17) to Sir Keith Joseph's speech to the Historical Association contains two major misunderstandings of the current debate on the place and purpose of history teaching. This is all the more disappointing in view of the optimism engendered by Sir Keith's speech which displays his awareness of and belief in the great advances in recent years within history in schools.

Firstly, you suggest that there is a difference in "fundamental objectives" between the proponents of content-based and concept-based history. This need not be the case and certainly is not the case in the thinking of the "History 13-16 Project", the major vehicle for the concept-based approach.

"History 13-16" gives primacy to concepts such as change, causation and evidence for three reasons:

- without a sense of these concepts collections of information about the past cannot be related to the present;
- explicit discussion of these concepts allows much clearer opportunities for relating history to pupils' needs;
- concepts can provide the backbone of a progressive syllabus so that pupils

are faced by a series of steadily more demanding tasks as they mature.

That said, content cannot be dismissed. We need material to illustrate these concepts and some areas of content are better than others for illustrating, eg questions of reliability of sources. Even then we are still left with a great range of choice, which is where Sir Keith's discussion of the nature of content is so important to the debate on criteria for selection of content. The text of his speech does not suggest that he has "put down a marker for the traditional view of national history" if, as he suggests, national history is to be seen against the critical awareness developed by conceptual understanding. It is this emphasis of content within a conceptual framework that the experience of "History 13-16" supports.

On a second major issue your suggestion that the "professionalization of history" is responsible for history's decline is nonsense. Assuming that "History 13-16" with its emphasis on concepts and method is in the van of this "professionalization" it is difficult to tally your suggestion with the fact that around 800 schools now use the

"History 13-16" examination course, with a current take-up rate of 50 schools per year. More significantly, these schools report increased numbers opting for history and that pupils' respect for history as both relevant and challenging has increased as a result of this "professional" approach.

Thus Sir Keith's Historical Association speech displays a greater sense of the potential of history in schools than does your leader. However, he has failed to address one crucial issue if we are to see pupils tackle cause and consequence, and evidence successfully and that issue is in-service training. Few history degree courses prepare students for the tasks of analyzing concepts. Who is to do this? Only the "History 13-16 Project" has consistent and considerable experience of this work and, as a new ageing curriculum development project, we are now without external funding.

IAN DAWSON
Project Director
History 13-16
Trinity and All Saints College
Leeds



Correcting reply

Sir - After having extended every courtesy to your staff, by allowing ourselves to be interviewed and photographed for your feature "When school is quiet" (TES, February 17) you can imagine our surprise and annoyance when reading the article, to find glaring inaccuracies, and a quote attributed to us that we would never under any circumstances have uttered.

If we may, we would like to put the record straight: 1. Our daughter's name is Kristie with a "K" not "Ch" as printed. Our daughter showed immense displeasure at the misspelling; 2. The word "unqualified" as used in connexion with my work, is totally misleading and could cause untold damage if taken in the wrong context by a person with whom I had been cultivating an atmosphere of trust and confidence. I am eminently qualified by virtue of experience and success, and take particular offence at your reporter's careless use of the word "unqualified". Academic qualifications are not a necessity for a successful counsellor; for example, Samaritans, marriage guidance, AA etc; 3. Your reporter states that Kristie finished her work before the rest of her class, and as a result became bored. Not so, Kristie was bored, but her work rate was not faster than the rest of her class; that was one of the original reasons for her de-schooling four years ago; 4. We have never and will never make such a negative statement as the one attributed to us by your reporter. We have never worried that we may want to slide back into the system, and have never quoted anything to the contrary.

These four points may seem trivial to yourselves, but to us they mean a great deal.

RICHARD A. JOHNSON
32 Newbury Close
Northolt
Middlesex

Jo Newton writes: I apologize for misspelling Kristie Johnson's name. I used the word "unqualified" to convey the fact that Mr Johnson has no formal qualifications in counselling. The word was not carelessly used, and I do not think it discredits his work. All the quotes attributed to Mr Johnson are taken from my notes of our conversation and are, to the best of my recollection, an accurate reflection of what he said.

Letters for publication should be kept as brief as possible and typed on one side of the paper only. The Editor reserves the right to cut or amend them.

Nor, even, I wish to question her absolute right to judgment if she found the Koran as misogynist, treating the women as idiots; or indulging in abusing the Jews. Only, I am surprised that, despite her background, she did come to this conclusion! For in vain one would look in the Koran to find anything comparable to what is said in Buddhism: "inscrutable as the way of fish in water is the nature of woman, those thieves of many devices, with whom truth is hard to find" (Chulavagga). Or, by St Paul: "a husband has authority over his wife just as Christ has authority over the church". And woman, of course, is the origin of sin.

As far as abusing the Jews is concerned, perhaps she considers it an exclusive prerogative of the Jews themselves to do so, not certainly that of a boy like Muhammad. Otherwise she would have found much worse "abusing" in the Prophets like Isaiah.

My sole purpose in writing this letter is to congratulate her on having the courage to remove the mask of civility which many in this age have been forced to wear and to revive the traditions and fantasies which were once spun in medieval Europe, by the fireside, into such vituperative outbursts as Song of Rowland.

KHURRAM MURAD
Director General
The Islamic Foundation
223 London Road, Leicester

Race theory

Sir - As the writer of the "inevitable" response to Nick Wood's article, I am allowed to comment on the letters that it has provoked (TES, February 9). The Ballard/Driver pieces are reminiscent of the "soft" and "hard" approaches adopted in certain theatrical presentations of criminal enquiries; but then as they are well used to working together (New Society, Vol 40, No 161, and is not too surprising.

However, I am sure we are all very grateful for the information that "what teachers find most disturbing is not their minority pupils' skin colour, but their determination to act in their own interests in their own ways, regardless of teacher expectations" and look forward to learning more about this interesting theory.

Moving on to Dr Driver, of course I am delighted that he has at last had an opportunity to run on about his problems with the Rampion Inquiry and his treatment of Ms Taylor's thoughtful book *Caught Between*.

What is this "grand theoretical position" that obsesses him? I was simply pointing out that Short's work does not

Software options

Sir - With reference to the article by Mike Skinsley ("Computer runs", TES, February 3), I should like to draw your attention to the fact that there are already in existence two computer programs for comprehensive scoring and final award calculation for the AAA/ESSO 5-Star Award Scheme.

The first is for the Research 3002 computer, which has been available for

Longman of Harlow for a year. The other is for the BBC/ACORN computer and further details can be obtained from me.

Both are published in association with the Amateur Athletic Association.

F A KEEN
"Westways"
Upper Tadmorton
NnBanbury
Oxfordshire

Questions of minor law

Nick Baker sums up for the legal centre specializing in children

Can a doctor pronounce a child unfit for school on a long-term basis?

Can a child make an application for access to his sister or brother who lives with the other parent? Is it legal for a school to close during the lunch break?

Does a 16-year-old have to emigrate with parents against his or her wishes?

A 13-year-old mother wishes to place her baby in care. Her mother objects - who has the right to decide?

(Answers below.)

Questions like these are typical of the thousands of inquiries dealt with by the Children's Legal Centre since it was set up three years ago. A charity funded by the DHSS and trust funds, its aim is to inform and educate parents, teachers, social workers and, of course, young people themselves on all aspects of the law as it affects children. In cases where the centre's research reveals areas where children's interests are poorly served by the law, it sets itself the difficult task of lobbying for change.

Since its opening (TES, February 20, 1981) the centre's staff has grown from four to seven full-time workers. These include two solicitors and a barrister. All the other staff have experience either in law centres, social work or education.

However, the centre does not act as a law practice. Its advice service will often appoint a centre worker in simple disputes - where an intermediary is needed between a child and a social worker, for example - but generally it's a matter of providing information or referring callers to a solicitor and advising them how they should instruct that solicitor.

One thing that centre workers experienced difficulty with at first was finding legal practitioners with appropriate knowledge, not only because child law doesn't figure importantly in the training of solicitors, but also because the Law Society won't publish lists of solicitors with any sort of specialism. It is even forbidden for voluntary bodies to share their own such lists.

By far the highest proportion of advice service users are parents. Then come voluntary organizations, lawyers, social workers and young people themselves. Inquiries from teachers account for a mere 3 per cent of information requests.

The Children's Legal Centre uses its advice service as a sounding board to isolate areas of concern, upon which it can then act. For example, centre worker and ex-ACE director Peter Newell took up the cases of four callers who were having difficulty in getting the Inner London Education Authority to integrate their handicapped children into ordinary schools, as the 1981 Education Act requires. All the children eventually got the placements they wanted, and IEA was forced to reconsider its policy on the matter.

Similarly, when a group of Oxfordshire parents approached ACE asking how to deal with their authority's plan to refuse education to mentally handicapped children between 16 and 19, the centre was able to back the campaign with legal "muscle". After considerable national publicity in February 1981, Mr Mark Carlisle, the then Education Secretary, intervened and instructed Oxford that it had a statutory obligation to provide suitable education on requests to all 16 to 19-year-olds. Here, the centre was definitely "spoiling for a fight" and, unusually for them, were prepared to do battle in the courts on behalf of the parents.

However, making sure that existing law is obeyed is only one part of the centre's aims. The staff also want to see changes in law and policy as it affects young people. Naturally, one area of interest is the way a school governs itself and the centre has published a Charter of Rights and Responsibilities - a draft constitution designed to cover all members of a school community, staff included. Much of the constitution refers to the Articles of the European Convention of Human Rights, on issues like discrimination, freedom of information, freedom of expression, and freedom from degrading and humiliating treatment. It also suggests frameworks for parental and pupil participation in policy-making and curriculum

planning as well as grievance procedures. The document is couched in the language of discussion rather than prescription, sensibly avoiding the appearance of "telling schools what to do".

In some cases, though, the centre doesn't pull its punches in demanding changes to law and practice, particularly as they apply to young people at risk and even more particularly where the risk involved is from the actions of the very agencies appointed by local authorities to care for those young people.

In the first edition of *Childright*, the centre's monthly magazine, there was a disturbing article about the forcible drugging of girls in care. The source was a leaked report to the director of social services of the authority concerned, where the girls were being held in a secure unit. The report made it clear that the tranquilizing drugs were administered forcibly by injection, for control rather than medical purposes.

The centre took the report to Tony Newton, Joint Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the DHSS. His reaction was swift, and the second edition of *Childright* was able to report in October 1983 new legal provisions for the administering of drugs to young people in care. These provisions included more detailed examination by a medical practitioner, the consent of parents or guardians and, most important, the confining of the use of tranquilizers to clinical and therapeutic application.

The centre can even use its repository of legal skills to suggest new law, as it successfully did for the Criminal Justice Act of 1982, which included the centre's proposals for the right of children in care to be heard in juvenile courts within 72 hours should they be put in a secure unit.

Children's rights can be affected by muddled-headed bureaucracy as well as inadequate law. For example, agencies who try and help with homeless young people are forbidden by law to help those running away from care (an estimated 350 such children in any one week, says the centre). On their return to care they are likely to be placed in "secure" wings from which they often abscond again.

Yet often they are in care in the first place not because they have committed an offence but for other reasons - in one case because an authority's housing department refused to find suitable accommodation for a mother and daughter until the mother's divorce had been made absolute.

The resulting cat-and-mouse games can be extremely harmful for the young people involved, yet they can't turn to anybody for help in negotiating a "non-punitive" return to care because to give such help is, strictly speaking, illegal.

Holding the threat of a care order over persistent truants infringes their basic rights, critics of the 'Leeds system' tell Jack Cross

Although much of the centre's resources are used lobbying on behalf of groups and individuals, it also prepares a great many handbooks and leaflets. A good example is *When Parents Separate*, a guide to the child's rights in divorce cases.

One area of performance that the centre would like to improve upon is its work with young people. It helped set up NAYPIC - the National Association of Young People in Care, which recently received a DHSS grant of £111,000 for use over three years.

The centre would like to see a similarly independent organization of school students run along NAYPIC lines. The problem is that as a centrally-sited agency with a national responsibility, the centre cannot very well open its doors to young people - its resources would be devoured by the needs of the young people of Highbury, the area of London in which it is based.

Centre worker Rachel Hodgkin would like to see regional children's legal centres opening throughout the country, where young people could go for help and even representation.

In cases where children are involved, the courts are never slow to declare that they have the child's best interest at heart, as the law demands. Oddly enough, the law does not demand that courts ask the child what those interests are. If the Children's Legal Centre's casebooks, researches and publications are anything to go by, a child's interests take second place too often to those of expediency, bureaucracy - and perhaps worst of all, economy.

Answers to questions above:

1 Yes, if his special needs are not met by the school.

2 No.

3 No, except in cases outside the L.A.'s power.

4 No - he/she can make him/herself a ward of court to stop it.

5 The 13-year-old has the right to decide.

The Children's Legal Centre is at 20 Compton Terrace, London N1. Tel: 01-359 6251.



knowledge of what is actually going on.

All the more reason, they feel, to examine carefully the legal, ethical and educational implications of such procedures for dealing with this kind of offence. They don't doubt the innovators' motives. "We recognize, of course, that the concern of the Leeds researchers and the juvenile court to reduce truancy has in itself been laudable, and it has been this intent that has informed the various initiatives they have adopted. But we are bound to say that, in our view, consideration of justice must take precedence over 'good intentions'." Then they go on to the attack.

Grimshaw and Pratt quote Lord Scarman - "Justice delayed is justice denied" - and, indeed, Magna Carta ("To no one will we delay right or justice") in claiming that any court which uses adjournments for any reason other than the collection of fresh evidence is on very shaky legal grounds. They have extracted from the Leeds records histories of cases which have dragged on for years. In 1980-81, the magistrates were still dealing with nine children who first came before the court in 1976-77, 91 from 1978-79 and 262 from 1979-80. Children who appeared to have learned their lesson might, if suspected of being "truancy prone", have their cases periodically reviewed (in their absence and that of their families) and find themselves ressumoned. Exasperation at the ineffectiveness of supervision orders has, say the Sheffield critics, led the Leeds magistrates into an assumption of executive powers never granted by Parliament. They believe that the spirit of the 1969 Act requires children to be taken out of the formal judicial process as soon as possible - not retained within it, virtually ad infinitum.

The case for the Leeds system rests largely on research carried out at the university by Dr Roy Hullin (biochemist and chairman of the juvenile court). Dr Ian Berg, consultant psychiatrist, and others. Dr Pratt says there must be flaws in controlled trials which don't include pupils in the fifth year ("Ridiculous - that's where the highest incidence of truancy occurs") or children who flatly refuse to go to school. "I suppose you could say the system 'works' for some specific groups of children - but is it worth it?"

The Sheffield thesis is that it devalues the judicial process; fear of the court is not the same as respect for the law. They quote a mother who told them that their child, who had been taken into care, "can't understand why he's in a home when he hasn't done anything wrong". Neither the truant, most of their peers, nor even the law itself, considers truancy seriously criminal behaviour yet, under such a system, truanters are liable to be punished more severely than perpetrators of acknowledged crimes.

Dr Pratt calls the Leeds procedures mechanistic, showing little concern for an individual child's reason for truanting nor interest in the nature of the schooling they are missing. Research in Sheffield shows that poverty is a major factor in truancy, as are low self-expectations by the child concerned. "For a variety of reasons, usually associated in the eyes of children with the irrelevance of what they were taught both in respect of their current circumstances and future likelihood of (un)employment, schooling had simply diminished as a serious and worthwhile part of their lives, and they had restructured their day-to-day activities accordingly."

It's not enough to see that the youngsters go back to school. Leeds' secondary schools have one of the worst pupil teacher ratios and long-term absentees are not always welcomed by hard-pressed teachers who find returning recalcitrants just more problems to cope with; it's virtually impossible to help them regain the ground they have lost.

In a report presented to the Home Office by Dr Hullin and Dr Berg, much was made of a direct (if not necessarily causative) connexion between juvenile truancy and adult criminality. Dr Pratt says that, in Sheffield at least, they could detect no significant relationship between absenteeism and delinquency. "Truants tend to hang about the estates, in their own homes and those of friends. In spite of our cheap fares they rarely come into the town centre to indulge in shop-lifting or vandalism."

Grimshaw and Pratt offer no cut-and-dried answers to the problem of truancy. They suggest magistrates and social workers should combine to create a system of supervision which would enable social workers to get together with schools to see that they provided the kind of education which would persuade absentees to return and stay. In place of absolute "middle class" attendance objectives, the aim should be to establish "realistic" expectations. Something like this would be more worthwhile than "any system which relies on increasing, ultimately, the number of care orders, with all their attendant disadvantages". Almost anything would be better than to keep dragging them before the courts.

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Making sure the future has a future.

FEATURES

School governors are unsure of their powers, their purpose or just who they represent according to research carried out for the DES. Maurice Kogan, Daphne Johnson, Tim Packwood and Tim Whitaker of Brunel University spent three years studying eight governing bodies in the South East, attending over 100 meetings and conducting more than 360 interviews.

Their results indicate a considerable gap between the reality of governing and the expectations of the Government and the 1977 Taylor report on school governors. The researchers conclude that governing bodies are 'sleeping beauties still waiting for the kiss of politics'.

Here they present their findings, along with ideas to wake governors up.

Our research reveals a wide variety of ideas among governors about just what they are there for. An important one concerned accountability; the existence of the governing body meant the headteacher and staff had to account to a wider public than their own staffroom; it could act as a checking mechanism to reduce the possibility of things going wrong in the school or in the education authority.

Another broad purpose was seen as liaison: teachers, parents, local people and councillors could be brought into contact through the governing body, and made aware of each other's viewpoint. The governing body could help the school by getting the teachers' problems over to the I.E.A., by "battling with the council on behalf of the school", or by giving official approval and encouragement to what headteacher and staff were doing.

Ideas about purpose, however, are tempered by experience. Governing bodies oscillate between different purposes. They have no explicit terms of reference but are shaped by the local political, community and school culture. Their work responds to convention, and to what such influential figures as the headteacher, chairman or clerk believe to be appropriate.

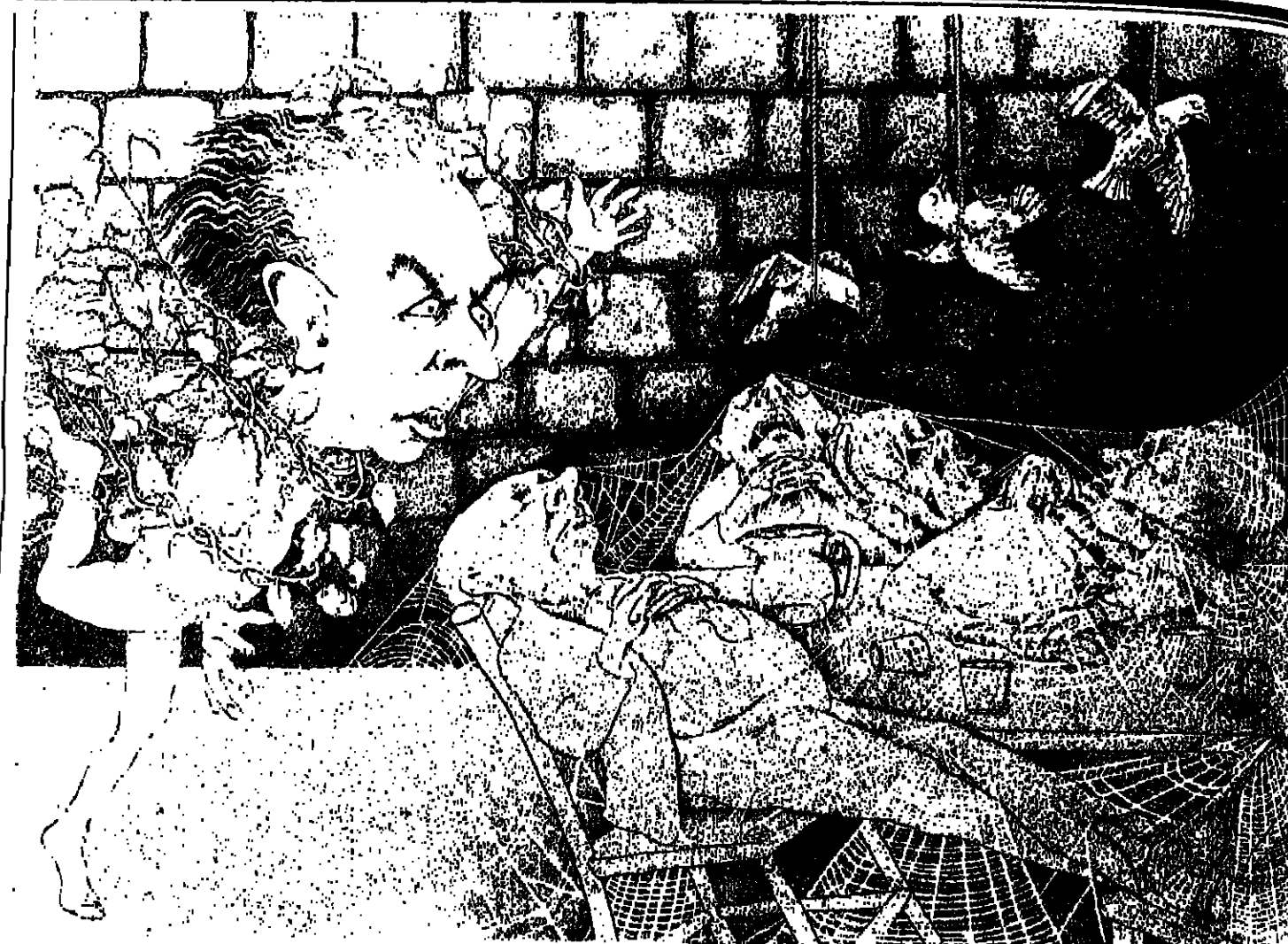
One teacher found the governing body to be a "past hoc institution", only hearing about decisions once they had been made, and without any ability to alter these. Others concluded that a responsive role was all the governing body should strive for. It was not for the governing body to innovate or initiate.

In some bodies, lay governors remained "outsiders" to the school, and felt unable to comment or check on the day-to-day realities of school life. But in other cases governors found themselves drawn into a working partnership with teachers, clarifying the overall aims of the school or helping to test the feasibility of a new scheme for pupils' profiles.

Sometimes the pressure of particular business pushed aside all thoughts of introducing new viewpoints. One chairman considered that the governing body of one dilapidated school had functioned for over a year. "In a first aid role, as a maintenance committee of the I.E.A." But in another case there seemed so little for a governing body to do that governors kept up attendance just in case of any eventual "last ditch, residual role, in an emergency or time of change".

Perceptions of purpose also include questions about a governing body's place in the local education system. Is the governing body the creature of the local authority?

Our research had to identify four models: 1. An accountable governing body would concern itself with the school, and have the authority to ensure that it was operating satisfactorily within



Sleeping beauties

prescribed policies. (This, of course, was the Taylor formula.)

● An advisory governing body would also be concerned with the school, but take the lesser role of testing and legitimizing the work of the professionals, as a kind of "second opinion".

● The supportive governing body would look outward from the school to other elements of the education system, but concentrate on advancing the interests of the school in this wider sphere.

● A mediating governing body would also focus on the school in the local education system, but with the authority to bring the different interests together and negotiate between them. Here the wishes and needs of the school would be set against those of other institutions and community groups.

This wide range of purposes is linked strongly with uncertainty about legitimacy. By what right are governors there? They have no model of a non-aligned school governor to clarify this point. Their legitimacy to serve derives from parent-hood, or employment in the school, or affiliation to a particular party, or residence or activity in the local area. But should this heterogeneous group, emerging from diffuse sources in the political system and the community, develop a corporate identity which might become detached from their sources of appointment? Or should each category of governor try to be in touch with and be accountable to a body of constituents?

In one authority, governors nominated through the I.E.A., by political parties, were quite clear that their contributions in governing body meetings should draw attention to their party's policies, whether or not these had been adopted by the local authority. But in a larger authority, I.E.A. school governors were put forward by town

'Is the governing body a creature of the local authority?'

councils and frequently had little knowledge of the overall education policy of the authority.

In yet other cases, political parties seemed to have reached out widely to make up their quota of school governors, with the result that some individuals attributed their nomination to the fact that they had once put envelopes through doors for a party of which they were not formally a member, or that they had made a speech which seemed to "ring bells" with councillors present in the audience. For these governors, the notion of a "constituency" was not a valid one.

Community governors, too, often had no obvious constituency. Nor had they always had any direct contact with the school they were

called upon to govern. One such governor, a middle manager from a large local firm, "tapped" his company for charitable donations to the school's fund-raising activities, but otherwise operated as an individual with a general interest in local education. And a representative of higher education appeared to look more towards his political party for a viewpoint, than he did towards the institution which had put him forward as a community governor.

Parent and teacher governors certainly had previous knowledge of the school they were called upon to govern, but took a variety of positions about their legitimacy as representatives. In one school, teacher governors wrote reports on what had happened at the governing body, and held meetings to canvass the opinions of other teachers. But they experienced difficulty in knowing what was "restricted discussion", and what could be reported to the staff.

In another school, teachers were clear that it was their role to transmit the views of staff to the governing body. One teacher stated that if she felt strongly opposed to an issue which other staff asked her to raise, she would feel obliged to resign her place on the governing body. But none of these teachers saw themselves as mandated on all issues that the governing body considered.

In some cases, the question of a constituency was not a central concern - teachers had joined the governing body with an eye to their future career development rather than to take on a representative role.

Parent governors, however, all seemed to feel they should represent their fellows, but in most cases felt unable to do so. Some felt they were "quite untitled" of other parents, and that this was demonstrated by their being the only individuals to express an interest in serving on the governing body. Others wanted to speak for fellow parents, but found no way of canvassing their views. PTA meetings would not fully serve for this since attendance there was low.

First-school parent governors, however, felt in touch with constituents through the "school gate" gathering, and had the most confidence of any parent governors about their understanding of parents' concerns and interests.

The powers of governors are a third major area of uncertainty. The Official Articles of Government might be expected to provide an authoritative statement about the powers of governors. But such articles are often out of date, with low priority accorded for their reformulation.

Some authorities issue a handbook of guidance for governors which, although not a legal document, is seen as superseding the terms of the articles. In other cases, the clear expectations of the authority about the standing and scope of governing bodies are conveyed through gov-

ernors' letters of appointment, through agenda papers, and through the resources made available for the servicing of governing body meetings and the dissemination of their pronouncements.

Some authorities taking part in the research seemed to have a consistent policy about the standing of school governing bodies. In one case this took the form of expressing respect for governors, formally consulting them about all proposals for change in I.E.A. policy, and informally using officer presence at governing body meetings as an "ear" to important grass-roots opinion in the authority.

In other cases, the stance taken seemed more opportunistic. Governors' opinion was sought on some matters but not asked for, or else ignored, on others. Yet another view was that governing bodies were, or should be, entirely local to their school, and need not be troubled, or trouble themselves, with authority-wide concerns.

Individual governing bodies are further shaped by the views of headteacher, chairman and clerk about the appropriate scope for school government. Headteachers, whether they were ex officio governors or "in attendance" on the governing bodies studied in the research, proved to have firm views about an appropriate role for governors. One headteacher saw the governing body as "one more pressure from the 'open society'", but tried to make governors "feel

'Headteachers have firm views about an appropriate role for governors'

included in the life of the school" by providing them with sheaves of information and formally entertaining them at all school functions.

Another headteacher too seemed to see running a school as a continuous exercise in public relations, and governors, like all other interested parties, were responded to as valued guests.

Other headteachers saw a more distinctive and specialized role for the governors. They could exert influence on the local authority, or act as a "jury" for the appraisal of new school policies.

For some headteachers, the governing body seemed a necessary evil - a multifaceted group to whom it was difficult to be accountable, but who could perhaps be taught what was important about the school. One headteacher saw governors as a group with whom he "had" to interact, though he saw the PTA as more broadly representative of the parent body. The attention of the governing body would certainly not be drawn to new school policies until these had been accepted by staff. One case study showed that, with

appointment of a new headteacher the role of the

governing body became open for renegotiation. The chairman's approach is another influence. In one case, a "radical" chairman wanted to break the mould of present governing body activity, getting governors more involved with the school and able to make constructive criticism. She instituted a system of visits to subject departments, followed by feedback to the governing body.

Other chairmen tried to identify a pattern of work and involve all the governors in it, but were not always successful. Several chairmen took a "single-handed" approach to the role, coping with everything that came the governing body's way, and using the meetings to give retrospective accounts of all their activity on the governing body's behalf. One such chairman was clear that he would no longer wish to see if he ceased to be chairman, as there was "nothing for ordinary governors to do".

The clerk's views of the governing body's role are another potential constraint, or source of development. The governing body may be seen as an outpost of the education committee, engaged in the process of promoting and implementing I.E.A. policies. An alternative model is of the governing body bringing together the views of stakeholders in education as an input to the education committee.

Several of the case studies showed a problem of dual loyalty for clerks who were employees of the local authority. One such clerk acted as a facilitator of the governing body but then appeared to be in danger of reprimands from the education department. And another was criticized for becoming "too identified" with the governing body. In another case, this problem did not arise. The clerk acted as a "policeman" for the local authority, and firmly ruled the governing body out of order if they sought to contest local authority policy.

The dependence of some governing bodies on their clerks was demonstrated when they were deterred from holding extra meetings when told that such meetings could not be clerked by the authority.

Governors are uncertain, too, about their relationship to teachers. The lay element in the governing body is fragmented; its mandate is variable and it does not have effective information about the work of the school, its possible needs and the aspects of education held to be important by the local community.

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One somewhat doleful conclusion, on our limited range of case studies, was that this concept did not appear to be getting through. A local education authority can confer power on a governing body but this involves a considerable degree of delegation or even self-denial, at a time

when local authorities themselves are becoming more strongly politicized and when directors feel that much of their own capacity to offer professional leadership is being reduced by the changing balance of power between lay and political leaders.

Serious variation in the powers and performance of governing bodies is not tolerable in a democratic society. For this reason, we believe that more didactic national guidelines should be prepared which will determine the balance to be struck between the powers of local authorities and of governing bodies. Within such guidelines, of course, a thousand flowers may bloom.

In particular, we suggest that the DES should decide and make plain how far governing bodies are to be the creatures of the local authorities, or how far they should develop corporate identities which can be separate from that of the school or of the local authority on which it is so dependent.

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But for both sides to benefit the clerk must empathize with the governors' aims by working for them. While clerking, the clerk must be unequivocally the servant of the governors and not of the education department. This, again, seems to us to be a matter upon which there could be national guidelines.

Finally, we believe that the head can strengthen his own role, and that of teachers, by strengthening the school governing bodies. The head's performance is a major determinant of the way in which governors behave and develop power. It is possible to regard governing bodies as a cockpit where the power relationships between different stakeholders in education can be played out. Or they might be a key point at which accountability is revised and discharged. Equally, however, they can embody a sense of community enhancing the well-being of the school. They can help break down barriers between professional providers and lay recipients of educational services. They can enhance the flow of information upon which all public institutions must feed. They can act as defenders and spoilers for the schools.

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Open and above board

NOT IN CONFIDENCE

Cyril Poster describes the advantages of open references for teachers

A former headteacher colleague used to conclude his references on some members of his staff with the words: "Should you wish any further information on X please do not hesitate to telephone me." One day, having had an application from a teacher at his school, and an apparently favourable reference, I did telephone. "Don't touch him with a bargepole, old boy," said John. "The fellow's bone idle, can't control his classes, doesn't know his subject..."

"How come your good reference then, John?" "Want to get rid of the fellow. And if anyone's fool enough to take him when I've tipped the wink in my last sentence..."

I doubt whether John would have approved of the present day moves towards open references in the teaching profession.

For some years now I have from time to time received references which end: "This reference has been shown to" - or sometimes "fully discussed with" - the applicant. Now a number of local authorities have adopted an open file policy for all employees, including teachers. Every teacher, therefore, has a right to see the reference his headteacher has written on him.

I must admit to some reservations when my last local education authority adopted this policy. I had always encouraged staff to come and discuss their intended applications with me or a senior colleague. I tried to help them as far as possible either with advice in the setting out of an application - some teachers are remarkably unskilled in presentation - or with my views on their qualifications for the post. Nevertheless, when it came to the reference itself, I took the view when an applicant asks his headteacher or colleague if he may name him as a referee, he is, in so doing, giving him *carte blanche* to write as he sees fit.

I still believe this to be true. But I have to accept the fact that most headteachers receiving an application which does not name the candidate's present headteacher would, unless a valid reason were given, be profoundly suspicious. The giving of *carte blanche* is therefore a little less than voluntary.

Needless to say, I conformed with my education authority's new policy. Before long I realized that it had implications far beyond the protection of the rights of the individual, for which it had been designed, and I now find myself, a wholehearted advocate of the open file policy.

Applicants fall into three broad categories. There is the selective applicant, whose target is chosen with care and whose aim is clear. There is the blunderbuss applicant, who fires off at anything remotely within range. Finally, there is the shot in the dark, bow at a venture applicant who says, disarmingly, "Of course I don't really expect to get anywhere with this application, but there's no harm in trying, is there?"

For the first, the selective applicant, the compilation of a reference can be a useful joint exercise in evaluating the teacher's achievement to date and considering his professional aspirations. Headteachers or their deputies should have regular evaluation sessions with all staff, because I believe that these are among the most valuable steps towards school improvement that we can take. An application for a new post provides an opportunity which should not be passed over, and with open references cannot be.

In such a discussion it is possible to discuss which of his or her professional skills and interests will be particularly relevant to the job in question. It may be that out of the dialogue both parties will come to realize that the applicant has the attributes for such a post. As a consequence his reference will be all the more enlightened and helpful. On the other hand, if he is clearly not suited, the would-be applicant has, at least

achieved a greater measure of understanding of what the job entails.

If the application seemed to be a wild fling, or hopelessly premature, I would offer to jot down a few notes on what I was likely to say if I am approached for a reference. This is plainly a more productive approach than an abrupt "I am sorry, but I cannot possibly support such an application." It opens the way to an offer to discuss what qualities such a post requires, and the extent to which the intending applicant can work towards developing them in his present post.

Each separate application requires a fresh reference. No two posts are identical, and discerning interviewers, when they send out a request for a reference, are increasingly asking precise and searching questions, often derived directly from the candidate's letter of application.

One who has not seen eye to eye with his headteacher over a criticism may well come back to discuss the issue afresh; time-consuming, perhaps, but far more profitable than subterranean rumblings.

The greatest advantage of open references is that no candidate is going to come back from an interview convinced that some statement by the headteacher in a reference marked *confidential* has cost him a plum job. This makes debriefing after an interview not only more possible, but also more productive. Applicant and headteacher are proceeding from common ground.

Needless to say, those local authorities with an open files policy, and their headteachers, are obliged to state that any reference will not be treated as *confidential*. At least one authority has already refused pointblank to give references under this condition; and some headteachers in other authorities have either refused, or continued to head their references *confidential* regardless.

Even those who accept that they are not writing in confidence may nevertheless be assuming that the use being made of the reference will be limited to the pruning down of a long list to a short list and as a final discriminator at the end of a formal interview. There are however increasing pressures that the use of references, even *confidential* ones, be not so circumscribed.

"I recall with horror," an experienced school governor observed recently, "that I used to be expected to assist in the appointment of a headteacher without having in advance all the information available to the chief education officer. Now I am equally alarmed that I may take the chair in interviews for assistant staff knowing more about the candidates than any teacher - other than the head - involved in the selection."

The involvement of other members of staff in selection - and not merely in showing candidates around the school and telling them the price of property in the locality - is a growing practice. A head of department and his departmental team may well spend the morning with candidates before formal interviews in the afternoon, passing on their views to the interviewing panel.

How can they be expected to play their part in decision making if they are not given the same information as the interviewers?

It might be argued that, although the references are open, there is an expectation on the part of the writer, and possibly even of the candidate that their currency will be restricted. However, a reference is either *confidential* or it is not. Who we ought to be considering is not a hypothetical cut-off point in the staff hierarchy below which references will not be sent, but the professional education of all staff in the criteria of selection and in the range of interviewing techniques.

Cyril Poster is deputy director of the National Development Centre for School Management Training at Bristol University.

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School governors are unsure of their powers, their purpose or just who they represent according to research carried out for the DES. Maurice Kogan, Daphne Johnson, Tim Packwood and Tim Whitaker of Brunel University spent three years studying eight governing bodies in the South East, attending over 100 meetings and conducting more than 360 interviews.

Their results indicate a considerable gap between the reality of governing and the expectations of the Government and the 1977 Taylor report on school governors. The researchers conclude that governing bodies are 'sleeping beauties still waiting for the kiss of politics'.

Here they present their findings, along with ideas to wake governors up.

Our research reveals a wide variety of ideas among governors about just what they are there for. An important one concerned accountability: the existence of the governing body meant the headteacher and staff had to account to a wider public than their own staffroom; it could act as a checking mechanism to reduce the possibility of things going wrong in the school or in the education authority.

Another broad purpose was seen as liaison: teachers, parents, local people and councillors could be brought into contact through the governing body, and made aware of each other's viewpoint. The governing body could help the school by getting the teachers' problems over to the l.e.a., by 'battling with the council on behalf of the school', or by giving official approval and encouragement to what headteacher and staff were doing.

Ideas about purpose, however, are tempered by experience. Governing bodies oscillate between different purposes. They have no explicit terms of reference but are shaped by the local political, community and school culture. Their work responds to convention, and to what such influential figures as the headteacher, chairman or clerk believe to be appropriate.

One teacher found the governing body to be a 'past hoc institution', only hearing about decisions once they had been made, and without any ability to alter these. Others concluded that a responsive role was all the governing body should strive for. It was not for the governing body to innovate or initiate.

In some bodies, lay governors remained 'outsiders' to the school, and felt unable to comment or check on the day-to-day realities of school life. But in other cases governors found themselves drawn into a working partnership with teachers, clarifying the overall aims of the school or helping to test the feasibility of a new scheme for pupil 'profiles'.

Sometimes the pressure of particular business pushed aside all thoughts of introducing new viewpoints. One chairman considered that the governing body of one dilapidated school had functioned for over a year 'in a first aid role, as a maintenance committee of the l.e.a.'. But in another case there seemed little for a governing body to do that governors kept up attendance just in case of any eventual 'last-ditch, residual role' in an emergency or time of change.

Perceptions of purpose also include questions about a governing body's place in the local education system. Is the governing body the creature of the local authority?

Our research led us to identify four models: 1. An accountable governing body would concern itself with the school, and leave the authority to ensure that it was operating satisfactorily within



Sleeping beauties

prescribed policies. (This, of course, was the Taylor formula.)

● An advisory governing body would also be concerned with the school, but take the lesser role of testing and legitimizing the work of the professionals, as a kind of "second opinion".

● The supportive governing body would look outward from the school to other elements of the education system, but concentrate on advancing the interests of the school in this wider sphere.

● A mediating governing body would also focus on the school in the local education system, but with the authority to bring the different interests together and negotiate between them. Here the wishes and needs of the school would be set against those of other institutions and community groups.

This wide range of purposes is linked strongly with uncertainty about legitimacy: By what right are governors there? They have no model of a non-aligned school governor to clarify this point. Their legitimacy to serve derives from parent-hood, or employment in the school, or affiliation to a particular party, or residence or activity in the local area. But should this heterogeneous group, emerging from diffuse sources in the political system and the community, develop a corporate identity which might become detached from their sources of appointment? Or should each category of governor try to be in touch with and be accountable to a body of constituents?

In one authority, governors nominated through the l.e.a., by political parties, were quite clear that their contributions in governing body meetings should draw attention to their party's policies, whether or not these had been adopted by the local authority. But in a larger authority, l.e.a. school governors were put forward by town

councils and frequently had little knowledge of the overall education policy of the authority.

In yet other cases, political parties seemed to have reached out widely to make up their quota of school governors, with the result that some individuals attributed their nomination to the fact that they had once put envelopes through doors for a party of which they were not formally a member; or that they had made a speech which seemed to "ring bells" with councillors present in the audience. For these governors, the notion of a "constituency" was not a valid one.

Community governors, too, often had no obvious constituency. Nor had they always had any previous contact with the school or the authority.

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called upon to govern. One such governor, a middle manager from a large local firm, "tapped" his company for charitable donations to the school's fund-raising activities, but otherwise operated as an individual with a general interest in local education. And a representative of higher education appeared to look more towards his political party for a viewpoint, than he did towards the institution which had put him forward as a community governor.

Parent and teacher governors certainly had previous knowledge of the school they were called upon to govern, but took a variety of positions about their legitimacy as representatives. In one school, teacher governors wrote reports on what had happened at the governing body, and held meetings to canvass the opinions of other teachers. But they experienced difficulty in knowing what was "restricted discussion", and what could be reported to the staff.

In another school, teachers were clear that it was their role to transmit the views of staff to the governing body. One teacher stated that if she felt strongly opposed to an issue which other staff asked her to raise, she would feel obliged to resign her place on the governing body. But none of these teachers saw themselves as mandated on all issues that the governing body considered.

In some cases, the question of a constituency was not a central concern - teachers had joined the governing body with an eye to their future career development rather than to take on a representative role.

Parent governors, however, all seemed to feel they should represent their fellows, but in most cases felt unable to do so. Some felt they were "quite untypical" of other parents, and that this was demonstrated by their being the only individuals to express an interest in serving on the governing body. Others wanted to speak for fellow parents, but found no way of canvassing their views. PTA meetings would not fully serve for this since attendance there was low.

First-school parent governors, however, felt in touch with constituents through the "school gate" gathering, and had the most confidence of any parent governors about their understanding of parents' concerns and interests.

The powers of governors are a third major area of uncertainty. The official Articles of Government might be expected to provide an authoritative statement about the powers of governors. But such articles are often out of date, with low priority accorded for their reformulation.

Some authorities issue a handbook of guidance for governors which, although not a legal document, is seen as superseding the terms of the Articles. In other cases, the clear expectations of the authority about the standing and scope of

governing bodies are conveyed through governors' letters of appointment, through agenda

papers, and through the resources made available for the servicing of governing body meetings and the dissemination of their pronouncements.

Some authorities taking part in the research seemed to have a consistent policy about the standing of school governing bodies. In one case this took the form of expressing respect for governors, formally consulting them about all proposals for change in l.e.a. policy, and informally using officer presence at governing body meetings as an "ear" to important grass-roots opinion in the authority.

In other cases, the stance taken seemed more opportunistic. Governors' opinion was sought on some matters but not asked for, or else ignored, on others. Yet another view was that governing bodies were, or should be, entirely local to their school, and need not be troubled, or trouble themselves, with authority-wide concerns.

Individual governing bodies are further shaped by the views of headteacher, chairman and clerk about the appropriate scope for school government. Headteachers, whether they were ex officio governors or "in attendance" on the governing bodies studied in the research, proved to have firm views about an appropriate role for governors. One headteacher saw the governing body as "one more pressure from the 'open society'", but tried to make governors "feel

included in the life of the school" by providing them with sheaves of information and formally entertaining them at all school functions.

Another headteacher took seemed to see running a school as a continuous exercise in public relations, and governors, like all other interested parties, were responded to as valued guests.

Other headteachers saw a more distinctive and specialized role for the governors. They could exert influence on the local authority, or act as a "jury" for the appraisal of new school policies. For some headteachers, the governing body seemed a necessary evil - a multifaceted group to whom it was difficult to be accountable, but who could, perhaps be taught what was important about the school. One headteacher saw governors as a group with whom he "had" to interact, though he saw the PTA as more broadly representative of the parent body. The attention of the governing body would certainly not be drawn to new school policies until these had been accepted by staff. One case study showed that, with

appointment of a new headteacher the role of the

governing body became open for renegotiation. The chairman's approach is another influence. In one case, a "radical" chairman wanted to break the mould of present governing body activity, getting governors more involved with the school and able to make constructive criticism. She instituted a system of visits to subject departments, followed by feedback to the governing body.

Other chairmen tried to identify a pattern of work and involve all the governors in it, but were not always successful. Several chairmen took a "single-handed" approach to the role, coping with everything that came the governing body's way, and using the meetings to give retrospective accounts of all their activity on the governing body's behalf. One such chairman was clear that he would no longer wish to serve if he ceased to be chairman, as there was "nothing for ordinary governors to do".

The clerk's views of the governing body's role are another potential constraint, or source of development. The governing body may be seen as an outpost of the education committee, engaged in the process of promoting and implementing l.e.a. policies. An alternative model is of the governing body bringing together the views of stakeholders in education as an input to the education committee.

Several of the case studies showed a problem of dual loyalty for clerks who were employees of the local authority. One such clerk acted as a facilitator of the governing body but then appeared to be in danger of reprimands from the education department. And another was criticized for becoming "too identified" with the governing body. In another case, this problem did not arise. The clerk acted as a "policeman" for the local authority, and firmly ruled the governing body out of order if they sought to contest local authority policy.

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The local authority system can constrain governing bodies' powers and behaviour. A chairman of governors appointed from the political system may have links with it which can help the school. But on taking on chairmanship he steps into a new role. He or she must then become the representative of the governing body as a whole rather than the representative of his own constituents. Nor should he or she be pulled towards the managerial interests of the school or towards those of the professionals. Many public institutions require such people to act as brokers between one sub-system and another.

Equally, the clerk is a key person. He or she is usually a member of local authority staff and some belong to a division of the education department devoted to governing-body matters. Governors benefit from the expertise and con-

tinuity of someone fully conversant with the working of an education department. A practical administrator can work better at the mechanics of clerking. Administrators, too, are able to draw upon knowledge of precedent and administrative practice and the developing views of those with whom they work in the local authority. Moreover, governors' feelings and knowledge enter better into the administrative and professional bloodstream of the local authority staff attending governing bodies.

But for both sides to benefit the clerk must empathize with the governors' aims by working for them. While clerking, the clerk must be unequivocally the servant of the governors and not of the education department. This, again, seems to us to be a matter upon which there could be national guidelines.

Finally, we believe that the head can strengthen his own role, and that of teachers, by strengthening the school governing bodies. The head's performance is a major determinant of the way in which governors behave and develop power. It is possible to regard governing bodies as a cockpit where the power relationships between different stakeholders in education can be played out. Or they might be a key point at which accountability is revised and discharged. Equally, however, they can embody a sense of community enhancing the well-being of the school. They can help break down barriers between professional providers and lay recipients of educational services. They can enhance the flow of information upon which all public institutions must feed. They can act as defenders and sponsors for the schools.

If these points are recognized, heads will be expanding their own role and, with it, the boundaries of the school itself. The school has to be involved in the education of the public, including parents, whose attitudes towards schooling and the particular school can make so much difference to its progress and well-being. For these reasons, heads do well when they educate and encourage governors in the active use of their powers and the development of their role.

Open and above board

Cyril Poster describes the advantages of open references for teachers

A former headteacher colleague used to conclude his references on some members of his staff with the words: "Should you wish any further information on X please do not hesitate to telephone me." One day, having had an application from a teacher at his school, and an apparently favourable reference, I did telephone. "Don't touch him with a bargepole, old boy," said John. "The fellow's bone idle, can't control his classes, doesn't know his subject..."

"How come your good reference then, John?" "Want to get rid of the fellow. And if anyone's fool enough to take him when I've tipped the wink in my last sentence..."

I doubt whether John would have approved of the present day moves towards open references in the teaching profession.

For some years now I have from time to time received references which end: "This reference has been shown to" - or sometimes "fully discussed with" - the applicant. Now a number of local authorities have adopted an open file policy for all employees, including teachers. Every teacher, therefore, has a right to see the reference his headteacher has written on him.

I must admit to some reservations when my last local education authority adopted this policy. I had always encouraged staff to come and discuss their intended applications with me or a senior colleague. I tried to help them as far as possible either with advice in the setting out of an application - some teachers are remarkably unskilled in presentation - or with my views on their qualifications for the post. Nevertheless, when it came to the reference itself, I took the view when an applicant asks his headteacher or colleague if he may name him as a referee, he is, in so doing, giving him *carte blanche* to write as he sees fit.

I still believe this to be true. But I have to accept the fact that most headteachers receiving an application which does not name the candidate's present headteacher would, unless a valid reason were given, be profoundly suspicious. The giving of *carte blanche* is therefore a little less than voluntary.

Needless to say, I conformed with my education authority's new policy. Before long I realized that it had implications far beyond the protection of the rights of the individual, for which it had been designed, and I now find myself a wholehearted advocate of the open file policy.

Applicants fall into three broad categories. There is the selective applicant, whose target is chosen with care and whose aim is clear. There is the blunderbuss applicant, who fires off at anything remotely within range. Finally, there is the shot in the dark, bow at a venture applicant who says, disarmingly, "Of course I don't really expect to get anywhere with this application, but there's no harm in trying, is there?"

For the first, the selective applicant, the compilation of a reference can be a useful joint exercise in evaluating the teacher's achievement to date and considering his professional aspirations. Headteachers or their deputies should have regular evaluation sessions with all staff, because I believe that these are among the most valuable steps towards school improvement that we can take. An application for a new post provides an opportunity which should not be passed over, and with open references cannot be.

In such a discussion it is possible to discuss which of his or her professional skills and interests will be particularly relevant to the job in question. It may be that out of the dialogue both parties will come to realize that the applicant has the attributes for such a post. As a consequence his reference will be all the more enlightened and helpful. On the other hand, if he is clearly not

the man for the job, the applicant has at least

achieved a greater measure of understanding of what the job entails.

If the application seemed to be a wild fling, or hopelessly premature, I would offer to jot down a few notes on what I was likely to say if I am approached for a reference. This is plainly a more productive approach than an abrupt "I am sorry, but I cannot possibly support such an application." It opens the way to an offer to discuss what qualities such a post requires, and the extent to which the intending applicant can work towards developing them in his present post.

Each separate application requires a fresh reference. No two posts are identical, and discerning interviewers, when they send out a request for a reference, are increasingly asking precise and searching questions, often derived directly from the candidate's letter of application.

One who has not seen eye to eye with his headteacher over a criticism may well come back to discuss the issue afresh: time-consuming, perhaps, but far more profitable than subterranean rumblings.

The greatest advantage of open references is that no candidate is going to come back from an interview convinced that some statement by the headteacher in a reference marked *confidential* has cost him a plum job. This makes debriefing after an interview not only more possible, but also more productive. Applicant and headteacher are proceeding from common ground.

Needless to say, those local authorities with an open files policy, and their headteachers, are obliged to state that any reference will not be treated as *confidential*. At least one authority has already refused pointblank to give references under this condition; and some headteachers in other authorities have either refused, or continued to head their references *confidential* regardless.

Even those who accept that they are not writing in confidence may nevertheless be assuming that the use being made of the reference will be limited to the pruning down of a long list to a short list and as a final discriminator at the end of a formal interview. There are however increasing pressures that the use of references, even *confidential* ones, be not so circumscribed.

"I recall with horror," an experienced school governor observed recently, "that I used to be expected to assist in the appointment of a headteacher without having in advance all the information available to the chief education officer. Now I am equally alarmed that I may take the chair in interviews for assistant staff knowing more about the candidates than any teacher - other than the head - involved in the selection."

The involvement of other members of staff in selection - and not merely in showing candidates around the school and telling them the price of property in the locality - is a growing practice. A head of department and his departmental team may well spend the morning with candidates before formal interviews in the afternoon, passing on their views to the interviewing panel.

How can they be expected to play their part in decision making if they are not given the same information as the interviewers?

It might be argued that, although the references are open, there is an expectation on the part of the writer, and possibly even of the candidate, that their currency will be restricted. However, a reference is either *confidential* or it is not. What we ought to be considering is not a hypothetical cut-off point in the staff hierarchy below which references will not be seen, but the professional education of all staff in the criteria of selection and in the range of interviewing techniques.

Cyril Poster is deputy director of the National Development Centre for School Management, Training and Related Education.

مركز التطوير

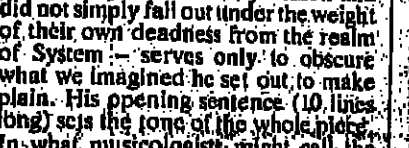
Liberal arts

Insults to Islam

Spurious system

I suppose Kimberley's colleagues in the London Association for the Teaching of English might cheerfully shaft him over ordinary clichés such as "at the other end of the spectrum" and one or two might even notice that he:

Frankly, Judy, your criteria for encountering genuine communicative situations promote a negative approach in my levels of expectation!



What could the opposite of Kimberley's jargon ever convey as, say, a piece of advice? That students should *not* know how they are getting on? That what is being learned has *no* connection with basic skills?

Peter Mullen is vicar of Tockwith and
Bilton with Bickerton, York.

British history

Peter Rogers is organizer of the African and Asian Resources Centre, Newman College, Birmingham.

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Whereas the Telugu version, attached to Maryada Rahimani, is far more straight-faced and

common historical root, often in India. Like *The Tiger and the Woodpecker*, alias *The Lion and the Crane* or *The Wolf and the Crane*, which Joseph

project, which has just published a new book, 'The Tiger and the Woodpecker,' an 'Indian fable' in 'contemporary style, from which the above picture is taken.

He sees his very survival as an offence against "truth" and his final chapter, which is a *tour de force* in its own right, is an extended *Mea culpa*.

Loyalty to self

by Chaim Bermant

Memoirs of an Anti-Semite. By Gregor Von Rezzori. Picador £7.95 and £2.50.

This is a confused and confusing book with frequent moments of brilliance and one is gripped by its eccentricity as much as its sparkle. I'm not quite sure what to make of it, but once I began on the first page I found it difficult to turn my mind to anything else until I had finished the last.

It is called "A Novel In Five Stories", four of which are told in the first person, and the last in the third, but they all have the resonance of deeply felt experience and if some works of fiction masquerade as autobiography, this is clearly autobiography masquerading as fiction and about half way through the book, the author, as if tiring of the effort, reverts to his own name of Greor.

The title is ironic. Gregor Von Rezzori was brought up in a family to whom anti-semitism was almost part of Christianity, and about the only part which had not atrophied with the passage of time, but it did not quite amount to hatred: "If there had been real hatred for the Jews, it would have been just as much as loving them. No Jews were simply people to be considered as the star of David and not as Theodorin." In talking with a Jewish girl could not have been a particularly pardonable perversion, like, for instance, that of a sodomite. It was the incomprehensible, a sudden gap in one's mind, worse than treason, and a breach of truth."

Now "troth", which he describes as a sort of ultimate loyalty to self, is the one principle which he appears to have imbibed from his forebears, but at the core of the book stands the question who or what exactly that self is. He was born in 1914 in Bukovina, or what might be called *Prisoner of Zenda* country, a part of the world which was in turn Polish, Austrian and Romanian (and is now Russian). His father, a minor Austrian nobleman of Sicilian origin, regarded himself as an Austrian and felt that he had somehow betrayed his troth by submitting to Romanian rule and when the

Russians marched in he shot himself. His son, however, is determined to live, but wherever he moves, whether in Bukovina or Bucharest, Vienna or Rome, he finds himself among Jews. He acquires a Jewish mistress and eventually a Jewish wife (whom he later divorces) and even a Jewish child and if he does not become a sort of pseudo-Jew by contagion, he is made one by the nature of his experience. The moment of recognition comes to him shortly after the war when, hungry and homeless in Germany, he is given a case of old clothes by some Jewish friends, which he hawks around Hamburg like some despised Jewish old-clothes peddler in Bukovina.

He did not care for the poverty-stricken, black-clad Jews in the musty ghettos of Bukovina, but they, at least, were not deficient in "truth" and by having a clear idea of their own identity, they helped others to maintain theirs. The Jews who troubled him were the detribalised sort who

dropped their faith, changed their names and spoke of themselves as Germans, for they blurred distinctions, or tried to. Hitler showed the futility of their efforts, but the spread of Hitlerism (which he witnessed at first-hand) also suggested that there sort of antipathies shown by his family, and which he had inquired as part of his birth-right, were not as harmless as he had thought and the self-confessed anti-semitic offers to marry a Jewish friend in an attempt to save her from the Nazis. It

There is nothing left of his anti-semitism by the time he matures — though he takes his time in maturing — and any hatreds he has left are reserved mainly for himself, for by the final chapter the war is over and he has witnessed the Nazi rape of Europe, the devastation of Germany, and the Russian invasion.

Yet blood still flows today as it did then; blood has always flowed in torrents, all through his lifetime: that it was not his own blood was due to random circumstances that one cannot even call fortuitous: the only indignity to be maintained in our own time is the dignity of being among the

He sees his very survival as an offence against "truth" and his final chapter, which is a *tour de force* in its own right, is an extended *Mea culpa*.

ARTS



Jack Shepherd as Bill Brund

Art of the possible

Lynne Truss on the television work of Trevor Griffiths

The South Bank Show: Trevor Griffiths. LWT February 26. Powerplays: Trevor Griffiths in "Television. By Mike Poole and John Wyer. BFI Publishing £12.00 0 85170 152 3. £5.95 153 1.

The socialist playwright Trevor Griffiths is suddenly, and unexpectedly, in the news. It's not because he's won anything recently, or that he's won an award, or celebrated an anniversary in the business. It's because two journalists, Mike Poole and John Wyer, have written a sound critical account of Griffiths' television work called *Powerplays*. Their book is published next week, and associated with its appearance there is a season at the NTF, starting on Monday. It's easy to see how the South Bank Show might get involved: good recent research to draw on, and an immediate response to what is a good enough reason for Melvyn Bragg to interview Griffiths under the harsh lights of the SBS studio and show a few well-chosen clips.

It's a minor example of a process common in the arts media: fortunately in this case the prime mover well deserves any hoop-lah that comes his way. What the BFI have brought together for the NTF season is a remarkable body of work, which is bound to surprise audiences by both its variety of form and consistency of quality. It ranges from the episodes Griffiths contributed to the Granada series *Adam Smith* in 1972 to the problematic *Of England* to 1982, taking in on the way single television plays (*All Good Men*, 1974; *Through the Night*, 1975; *Country*, 1981), adaptations of his own stage plays (*Occupations*, 1974; *Comedians*, 1979) and major series (*Bill Brand* 1976; *Sons and Lovers*, 1981). There is also a screening of the film *Reds*, which Griffiths co-wrote with his producer, director and star Warren Beatty.

One good reason for looking at Griffiths' career in television is that, as Poole and Wyer point out, it can be seen "to define the limits of the possible" for a socialist writer working in the medium. Griffiths, unique among his peers in the theatre, is very committed to television as a "mobiliz-

ing" force, and he's determined to use its potential for reaching the widest possible audience, both in number and in social make-up. "I'm not interested," he has said, "in talking to 38 university graduates in a cellar in Soho." His political aim, so he told Bragg on Sunday, was to use the medium to "persuade, not to propagandize", and for that reason his work is predominantly naturalistic, his already stated position being that if you are going to introduce unfamiliar and complex arguments into the audience's living room, "it's just an overwhelming imposition to present them in unfamiliar forms". This surface conformity has not, however, made him the darling of the television channels and he has encountered contention and censorship, about which he seems pragmatic. When the BBC insisted on changes to his play *Through the Night* in the end he made them "rather than lose the whole production".

You might argue, in fact, that Griffiths' attitude to television accommodates the same dichotomy of "idealism versus pragmatism" which, as a political dilemma, so often informs his drama. The dialectical nature of his plays was the most closely pursued theme in the *South Bank Show*. This meant that the clips chosen were all key climactic moments of rhetorical intensity, which, while it helped the theme, also gave the unfortunate impression that his characters sought all the time (and incidentally confirmed one's suspicion that they are all played by Jack Shepherd). The scene shown from Griffiths' early play *Absolute Beginners* (1974) was a good one for its purpose, as it showed the dialectic in an explicit political and historical context, at a decisive moment in the birth of Leninist ideology. The play is set in 1903 during the Social Democratic Congress at which Lenin forced the split in the party into Bolsheviks and Mensheviks. The scene chosen demonstrated the harshness of Lenin's single-minded determination to "make the revolution possible" by rigorous organization and by suppressing the rival claims of personal morality. The political theme thus set up is the eternal dilemma of the Left - one which has been central to Griffiths' work.

"I've always liked a good argument," Griffiths said, rather disarmingly, and certainly his best understood work has been in the dialectical form. Ironically, when in his last two plays for television, *Country* and *Of England*, he was less schematic, less even-handed, audiences tended to miss the point. Certainly the skinhead play *Of England* which was written, produced and broadcast at extreme speed to retain topicality, is generally regarded as a failure. "I tried to write an agit-prop play for television," Griffiths said, "I tried to do it and failed." As Poole and Wyer point out, in *Of England* Griffiths discovered that the kind of working class "resistance" he had celebrated in *Comedians* was, in circumstances of social decay, "capable of becoming racist in character". Griffiths' method of combating this realization within the play, by making one of the skinheads aware of the excesses of Nazism ("I'm English. I don't wear a swastika for nobody"), was clearly inadequate: they call the effect "dramatically clumsy and politically retrograde".

There is more than a hint of lament in Poole and Wyer's harsh assessment of *Of England*. As the season will show, Griffiths has achieved a great deal in television - particularly by consistently upholding his belief that political argument can be a base for drama: as he said on Sunday "I just have a terrific passion for ideas. I don't go along with this notion that ideas are abstract. To me they're enormously concrete". What Poole and Wyer regret is that like others of his "generation" Griffiths seems unable to use his drama to comment on contemporary politics. Eight years ago in *Bill Brand* he created what Bragg called "the most political series that there has been on television"; it dealt with the contradictions within Labour politics so acutely that it was president of the Labour SDP split. Now, with the Labour party falling around his ears, it does seem a shame that Griffiths' current project is a six-part serial about Scott and Amundsen.

The season at the NTF opens on Monday and continues throughout March. Trevor Griffiths will deliver a Guardian lecture at the NTF on Saturday March 31 at 6.15.

Brass, Beethoven, blues

National Festival of Music for Youth First regional auditions, Queen Elizabeth Hall, February 27.

No sooner have the last strains of "Land of Hope and Glory" died away than it is time for the Music for Youth bandwagon to start rolling again. From the 734 regional auditions, 4000 performers will be chosen to take part in the National Festival of Music for Youth on the South Bank in July, and out of those some 1000 for the ultimate honour of the Schools Prom in November. The auditions are the beginning and, in a way, the most important feature of the whole Music for Youth jamboree. They serve as a salutary reminder of the hours of effort and enthusiasm that go into the grooming of the smallest ensemble or largest orchestra, regardless of whether it qualifies for any subsequent acclaim. Applications this year are up by a record 47 per cent to allow over 20,000 young musicians to take part. The Queen Elizabeth Hall, chosen for the first time as the venue for the opening auditions, was, after a slow start, filled to capacity with supporters and anxious participants awaiting their turn.

From the first morning's entries it is impossible to judge the eventual range of music that will be offered, since not all the categories are represented. The standard was predictably high. The Guildhall School of Music and Drama submitted two groups, their junior brass band performing an unusual version of the *Henry V* overture - a delight on the ears despite an over emphasis on the triple forte instructions. Many of the smaller orchestras

and chamber groups seemed to be playing safe with traditional repertoire. Putney High School bravely tackled a Pomp and Circumstances March with an over balance of wind players; the Cromwell Chamber Orchestra offered a Haydn cello concerto with some technically assured solo playing, yet were at their most impressive in Britten's Single Symphony. Their String Quartet offered a movement from Beethoven's Op8 No2 and acquitted itself with the style and musicianship to be expected from a group trained by the redoubtable Sheila Nelson.

It is always rewarding to observe high standards in groups that have their origins in the primary and secondary school classroom. Good percussion technique starts with the tiniest juniors; the four six-year-olds from Glenbrook Junior School showed a remarkable control and dexterity in their improvisations for xylophones, drums and woodblock. The most flamboyant moment of the morning was the Bishop Thomas Grant Percussion Group's rendering of the *William Tell* Overture, perhaps not entirely suited to the medium of percussion ensemble, but panache counts for a lot on such occasions. Judges Andrew Peggle and Douglas Coombes commented on the wind band, ensemble or choir will they recommend to qualify? This remains a closely guarded secret for another month, but whatever the verdict the NFMV looks all set to take over the South Bank in a storm of brass bands, Beethoven and blues in July.

Philippa Davidson

Vocal accord

Incorporated Society of Musicians: Masterclass for Singers by Noelle Barker at the Music School, Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne on Saturday, February 11.

Noelle Barker, head of vocal studies at the Guildhall School of Music, and six talented young singers treated a large Newcastle audience to an enthralling afternoon's entertainment in this Masterclass, organized by the local branch of the Incorporated Society of Musicians. In her brief introduction, Miss Barker said she deeply regretted the tremendous amount of unnecessary mystique that surrounded the study of singing: nearly all that students needed to know could be written on the back of a postcard. Surprisingly, most technical problems experienced by singers arise as the direct result of their own personal day-to-day problems. In the musical performances that followed, many of these problems came to light.

Margaret Huntington sang Mendelssohn's "Hear ye, Israel", a performance which gained in confidence following Miss Barker's remarks that all singers could benefit by closely examining the posture, strength, and flexibility of ice-skating champions, Torvill and Dean. Besides placing considerable emphasis on deportment, Miss Barker also stressed the importance of enunciating German and Italian words correctly. For example,

Italian vowels should be sung "as if you were just about to sneeze". Carol Wilson, who performed Buononcini's "Per la Gloria" was told that a singer's breathing should be closely modelled on the legato bowing of a good string player.

Brian Artist, who sang Schubert's "Der Wanderer" was advised to strengthen the sound of individual words of the text. Stressing such words as "wanderer" and "fremdling" could help an audience to better appreciate the loneliness of a walker's (and artist's) existence. Following Susan Jordan's performance of Haydn's "On Mighty Pons" and Hilary Pennock's rendering of Schubert's "Er, Der Herrliche", Noelle Barker advised all young singers to listen critically to speeches of well-known politicians to assist them in developing a wider range of dynamics.

Finally, Gillian Brunton was provided with a number of useful exercises that will, without doubt, help her acquire a smooth, soft mature voice needed by Schubert's "Junge Nonne". Miss Barker suggested that the students buy pocket mirrors so that they could watch their heads and mouths while they were practicing. In her view, this could save them the expense of a dozen singing lessons. With the remarkable Miss Barker as a teacher, however, I am sure that most students would opt for her lessons regardless of price.

David Biermann

Disabled

The Committee of Enquiry into the Arts and Disabled People, chaired by Sir Richard Attenborough, is still looking for evidence - examples of good and bad practice, recommendations and reports of interesting arts projects involving disabled people. The Committee will publish its findings at the end of the year, having spent two years trying to form a complete picture of arts provisions for disabled people of all kinds. Its brief covers professional and amateur arts, arts for leisure, as well as the arts in an educational context.

Carolyn Keen, Project Director for England and Wales, is interested to hear from artists, pupils, students, teachers, parents, as well as ordinary members of the arts community public, not only about existing provisions but about suggestions for the future. For further information, contact:

tionnaire, contact: The Committee of Enquiry into the Arts and Disabled People, Nuffield Lodge, Regents Park, London NW1 4RS. Tel 01-586 0583.

Nick Baker

Grange Theatre Company, a group of disabled performers whose work was recently praised in *The TES*, have embarked on a new venture. With support from the GLC and the Guildenken Foundation they are setting up a two week training course for disabled people interested in acquiring theatrical skills. The course will take place at Goldsmith's College in London, between April 24 and May 5. Experts in voice, movement, clowning and a wide variety of other skills will take part and there will be plenty of opportunity for discussion. Further details from Grange, The Diorama, 14 St. John's Lane, London NW1 4BT (01-586 0583).

M6 onwards

There is good news for the arts in Rochdale this week. The M6 company, well-known for its TIE work, has been under threat since Rochdale Council unexpectedly voted not to renew its grant last November. Though it is also supported by the Arts Council (whose regional funding in any case has a question mark over it), the local council's contribution made up two-thirds of its grant. M6 mounted a campaign to have the decision reversed and received support nationally as well as in the immediate locality.

Last Wednesday the council voted to renew M6's contract for another year - after discovering that the education committee had underspent its budget last year and so, if they were not all available, for the moment M6 can breathe again.

ARTS

Literary competition

Literary Competition No 48. Report by Charybdis

I'd asked for lyrics from a musical about someone dark or doomed. "Anybody can rhyme, you can find a rhyme for anything. But get a guy who can say something clever and warm."

Thus Frank Loesser; and, as the lyricist and composer of what is, in its artful amalgam of wit and tenderness, possibly the most perfectly balanced musical of all time, *Gypsy* and *Dolls*, he should know.

I set this competition as auto-exorcism of the depression that has overtaken me at several recent musicals assailing themes incompatible, as it seemed to me, with the broad but finite horizons of the genre and susceptible only to the realization of fully-composed-through opera. Not many competitors assisted me in the process, but all entries were on target and none lacked some merit.

Of "warmth" there was no lack, even if it was only the sizzle of boiling oil, the crackling of faggots, or the mega-watt hum of the Chair. So enthusiastically did you sup with horrors that at times I felt like *The Producers* of Mel Brooks' ineffable film, ransacking scripts for something so insurmountably tasteless that it could not but bomb on Broadway. They came up with "Springtime for Hitler": you celebrated monsters of equal immensity.

With the best entries closely vying, I am throwing the money around a little more widely than usual this month. £4 each to E E Neville, Paul Griffin, Philip Carradice and Mary Holtby for excerpts from their lyrics on, respectively, Idi Amin, Jack the Ripper, Senator Joe McCarthy and George Joseph Smith (not to be confused with acid-bath murderer High - as in one entry: *GIS just dunked them*). £8 each to E J Elwin, David Brownstein and Gerard Benson (the versatile Mr Benson even included a bass-baritone setting of his horrible little song: with kazoo accompaniment in a resonant bathroom it sounds uncommonly well). All prize-winners will, I am sure, forgive me if I say how greatly I look forward to not seeing their efforts in production.

Old Obote's out of favour and he's heading for defeat. The Kenyan army's waiting as his soldiers all retreat. The crocs in Lake Victoria will soon have lots to eat. Idi's back in town!

J E Neville

So... don't look for me, Doctor Watson: You must have lots on. While I raise Hades Among my ladies. I'm so retiring. But I do take an interest in their wiring...

Paul Griffin

McCarthy's the name. Witch-hunting's my game! When shopping in the market Or walking in the mall - You want a taste of glory? Inform upon your pal.

Phil Carradice

George, when the knot is knotted We shall be in clover; Two hearts equally besotted. Full and running over - We should celebrate it doubly: Let's abandon ale and porter! Shall we drown ourselves in bubbly? No, my darling - WATER.

Mary Holtby

Robespierre My fav'rite food is a chop, chop, chop. Best end of neck will do. And galantine à la Guillotine. And the de - you know who! My fav'rite drink is tomato juice. Vin rouge my fav'rite brew: A Charreuse green at the guillotine Will turn my fav'rite hue. My fav'rite soldier's Colonel Blood. My fav'rite bishop - Gore. I'll mate my queen at the guillotine. Then tumblin' down some more! My fav'rite bet is 'Heads you lose'. And my 'certs are always 'dead'. I'm real mean with my guillotine. And I'm gonna keep a-head!

E J Elwin

A Tear is Born (The Life and Times of Ivan IV) Though warned that the boyars will always be boyars, I'll limit their powers without needing lawyers To argue my case in The Muscovy court. The poor Mongol nomad is not, they

say, so bad; But if I can't drive him back East I shall go mad. The whole Volga basin Will have to be fought. They say I'm a loud, yet I must have an outlet

Through Poland or Sweden. The outcome's in doubt, yet I should have a base in A Baltic seaport.

Chorus:

They call me, for killing my firstborn, a skunk. I'd step down and willingly live as a monk. Although I'm no cherub, I went to be good.

David Brownstein

Bloody Mary (Philip's Song) Oh, bloody is the knife that the butcher uses, Bloody is the wound that opes and oozes. Bloody are the blades of the mil-li-tary.

Chorus:

But none so bloody as my Bloody Mary: She's the girl for me, Just my cup of tea, Just my dish of pain;

Chorus:

Heigh-ho the pierced vein And the severed artery. Oh, bloody is the mouth of the slav'ring ring-man, Bloody are the hands of the quart'ring hangman.

Bloody Mistress Rat, when the dog has chewed her, But none so bloody as my Mary Tudor; She's the girl for me, etc.

Chorus:

Heigh-ho the boiling brain And the burning heresy.

Gerard Benson

Competition No 49. Set by Scylla A well-tuned and originally phrased application for a job is perhaps as important as "getting on your bike". May we have a letter of application for an imaginary job, which shows that even though your qualifications are entirely different from those asked for in the advertisement, you are ideal for the job. Up to 140 words. Closing date March 21.

Contemporary Music Network Concert: London Sinfonietta, Bloomsbury Theatre, February 23.

Contemporary contrast

The London Sinfonietta can always be relied upon to stimulate and surprise. Their current touring programme contrasts form by feeling and emotion -

Blavatsky's *Carmen Arcadique Mechanica Perpetuum*, as intricate as a painting by Klee to whom the work is dedicated, to Robin Holloway's orchestral cycle *Arta*, and Elliott Carter's song cycle *In Sleep*. In *Thunder*, based on six poems by Robert Lowell, which at its best enhances the restless humour, passion and sadness of Lowell's verse. Martyn Hill was in tender voice as the tenor soloist.

H K Gruber's *Frankenstein* can hardly claim any literary merit but children would relish its array of blood-sucking vampires, and well known film and story book characters: John Wayne, James Bond, Superman,

etc. Indeed, it would be difficult for the most hardened cynic not to smile at such images as Robin and Batman cosily having breakfast together, or Frankenstein tangling with the test tube lady to music remarkably reminiscent of Kurt Weill. A wild extravaganza of tooting, plonking, whirring nursery instruments, this orchestral version (to result in a collaboration between the composer and fellow Viennese composer / poet friends) dates from 1976 and is unusually tonal, drawing on a variety of popular idioms including dance and cabaret music. A macabre romp - not to be taken too seriously - it is a pity this piece is not recorded as it would make ideal material for class study.

The London Sinfonietta have one more concert in Coventry (Warwick University Arts Centre) tonight. The score of *Frankenstein* is published by Boosey and Hawkes.

Philippa Davidson

LSO meet

The London Symphony Orchestra is providing free to schools in Greater London a unique opportunity to visit the Barbican Centre and meet the players later this month. Meet the Music Makers will focus on five lunchtime concerts in the Barbican Hall at 1.00pm each day, from March 26 to 30. Prior to this, members of 11.30 each tra will be available from 11.30 each morning to meet school parties and engage in informal musical activities. There will be time for lunch and some exploration of the Barbican before the start of the concert.

Two programmes, aimed at 9 to 12-year-olds (but with half an eye to the general public) have been specially devised by Andrew Peggie,

who will also introduce the music at each concert. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday offer the chance of a whistle-stop tour of the world, with music by Prokofiev, Mussorgsky (*Night on the Bare Mountain*), Ravel, Copland (*Appalachian Spring*), and Rimsky-Korsakov (*Capriccio Espagnole*).

The programmes for Thursday and Friday have a distinctly English flavour, featuring Malcolm Arnold, Benjamin Britten, Percy Grainger's rarely heard *Green Bushes* and part of a Trumpet Concerto by John Addison, performed by the LSO's Principal Trumpet, Maurice Murphy. The conductor will be Bramwell Tovey. Teachers should book directly with the Barbican on 01-638 8891 or 01-628 8795, preferably before March 9. Tickets for the general public are on sale at £2.50.

Atlas twins

Blood Brothers Tuiketh High School, Preston.

After 10 years as head of drama in Nantwich, Cheshire, Allan Steven gave us his job last year and formed Atlas Theatre Company with two of his A level Theatre Studies sixth formers, Martin Gors and Sophie Robbins. Their policy is to work with young and malleable actors who are working towards Equity membership. They perform work by professional dramatists, rather than company-devised work. They currently operate within a 65-mile radius of their Cheshire base, from Lancashire in the north through Manchester to Clywd Staffordshire and Shropshire. Several of these areas have few TIE companies.

Still seeking to establish themselves, Atlas has mainly received encouragement from Willy Russell and they have launched themselves with the original 75-minute version of Russell's *Blood Brothers*, now half way through its tour

to audiences aged 14 and over. With-out the glamour of music and Barbara Dickson's performance as the working-class mother who gives one of her twins to her wealthy, childless employer, the emphasis moves from this mother's predicament to the brothers' lives. An indictment of class barriers seems intended but the close focus of staging in the round without the sets to enforce class differences makes the play a story of guilt instead. Despite their backgrounds, Mick and Eddie almost survive as friends; it is their mothers' fears that keep them apart. Mr Gors and Miss Robbins create the working-class Mick and his friend Linda with a keen sense of character; elsewhere some performances tend to broadness more than subtlety, but the audience was pleased.

Timothy Ramsden

Blood Brothers is on tour until April 13. Some dates remain available. Schools interested in booking the show should contact Martin Gors: 0270 625796.

Sale work



Learning the alphabet with pictures; a hand coloured wood-engraved card introducing a series of alphabet cards published for Dutch children at Lelden round about 1820. This set of cards is one among 342 lots auctioned at Sotheby's last Tuesday. They come from the estate of a Dutch collector, Coenraad Frederick Van

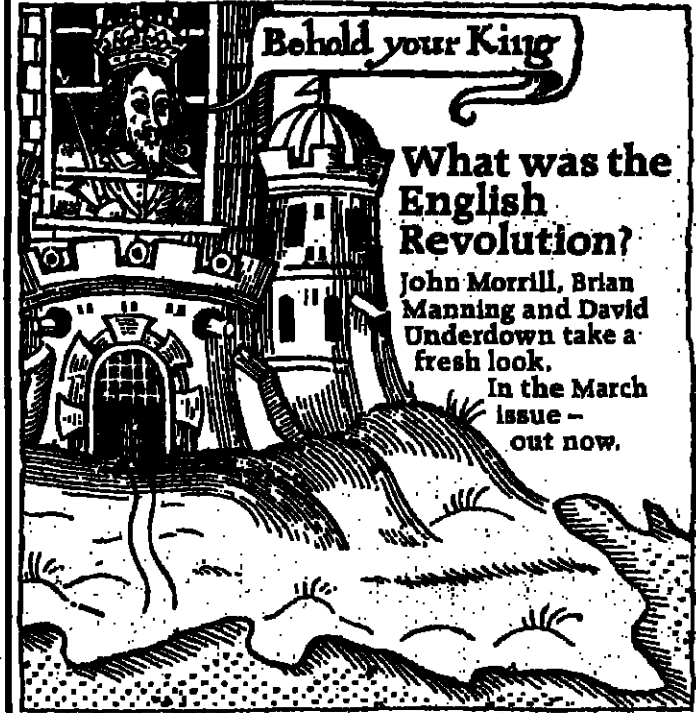
Veen, who assembled a magnificent collection of children's books and ephemera which is going to be dispersed in three separate sales during 1984. Tuesday's sale consisted of Mr Van Veen's English, French and German children's books, together with his very remarkable collection of cards and card games, movable books and decorated papers.

Regrets have been expressed that Mr Van Veen did not arrange for his holdings to go to a library or educational institution. But he was a collector of humane tendency and didn't see why others should not enjoy the pleasure of obtaining and owning the objects that he had so much relished buying - and at least something of the relationship between the materials from different nationalities is preserved in Sotheby's handsome illustrated catalogue (£25).

The remaining parts of the Van Veen collection consists of the peerless library of Dutch children's books and Dutch picture sheets. These are scheduled to be sold by Sotheby's in Amsterdam, but there will be opportunity to view them in London beforehand.

Brian Alderson

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HISTORY TODAY

كتاب التاريخ

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BOOKS

Under oath

Political Trials in Britain. By Peter Hain.
Allen Lane £12.95. 0 7139 1339 8.

Anyone hoping to find an account of political trials from Thomas More to the present day in this book will be disappointed. For, although the author touches on some of the more notorious political trials in the recent past, his brief is much wider than this, namely, to prove that all trials—in fact, as far as can be seen, all legal business—is politically biased. And as the author is Peter Hain, the bias is naturally right-wing and hostile to the interests of a vast number of people in this country.

In chapter after chapter—on the conspiracy laws, official secrecy, racism and trade union law among others—Hain wears his left-wing credentials boldly. However, he produces nothing very new. On the academic side his thesis was amply demonstrated by John Griffith in *The Politics of the Judiciary* (1977) (he does properly acknowledge the influence of this book). Otherwise the pages of the *Guardian*, *New Statesman* and *New Society* are regurgitated in the familiar whining tones of Dave Spart.

The main problem with our legal system, according to Hain, is that it offers huge areas of discretionary powers to the authorities—from the humble police officer to the highest legal officials in the land. Needless to say when it comes to making decisions about, for example, whether or not to arrest or prosecute someone, blacks, political agitators, young people with long hair (to name but a few) are the first ones to be chosen. When power is vested in the Left through elections at local government level, for instance, then the wider discretionary powers of the higher courts will take it away—here he cites the example of the House of Lords' quashing of the GLC's "fairs fair" policy. Acting as a bulwark to all this politically right-wing activity on behalf of the law are the lawmakers themselves—Parliament, solicitors, judges and magistrates are destined by their background and education to despise blacks, women, trade unions and sundry left-wing causes.

After spending some years in the

courts I am bound to agree with a lot of what Hain says. The difficulty is in sorting out his reasons for why this should be so and the solutions he would put forward. For, I assume, the implication is that a truly socialist legal system would not stray down the same socially divisive path.

And it is here that I must disagree with this left-wing fantasy. Police officers, judges, etc are like they are not because they are right-wing but because the exercise of authority is a conservative activity *per se*. The legal systems of socialist regimes have not shown themselves to be all that sympathetic to racial minorities (the Jews in Russia), the politically dissident (all Communist countries) and trade unions (ditto). A more rigid adherence to the status quo occurs, if anything, where the Left is in power.

For whatever the faults here, things do change, if only slightly, for the better. This can be demonstrated by looking at one or two of Peter Hain's more outdated observations. On page 287 he observes that *Soho* pornographers get away scot-free while the young heady perpetrators of *Oz* magazine who sought social change rather than titillation are viciously prosecuted. In fact, pornographers are now being jailed for first-time offences. Only a few weeks ago one famous "porn" family went to jail *en bloc* for quite a long time. When it comes to custody and adoption of children he quotes a 1976 study which stated that in areas of disagreement the views of the natural parent always override the needs of the child. Not so. In a recent television programme a dedicated left-wing lawyer, Stephen Sedley, lamented the erosion of the rights of natural parents in disputes over children.

These are only two examples of how a book about the law can quickly become out of date. They are also examples of how the law in this country can and does respond to public opinion and thus use its discretion to change things. Without such discretion, Sakharov still sits in Gorky and Shcharansky in a Siberian labour camp.

Christine Verity



Film buffs tired of the over-ideological theorizings of British academic critics should consider a new book from *Down Under* in which the subject is treated with the intelligent readability it deserves. Brian McFarlane's *Words and Images: Australian Novels into Film* is a highly stimulating examination of the transposition of nine major books, including *My Brilliant Career*, from which the above still is taken. The book is published by Heinemann Australia, and will be available in this country soon.

Spanish Rs

Education for a Changing Spain. By John M McNair.
Manchester University Press £20.00. 0 7190 0966 9.

One Spaniard of my acquaintance is fond of exclaiming—in a mixture of irritation and affection—that his country is "very paradoxical". He is a teacher who worked in comprehensives in England for seven years before returning to Spain a few years ago. The cause of his anguished outbursts is all too frequently his employer, the education ministry, whose paradoxical judgments seem less than charming when he's the victim. John McNair's book is full of these paradoxes and is clearly written from bitter experience.

How much I sympathize with his heartfelt words on the first page about attempting such a book. "There are hazards in writing such an account. Documents are not always a good guide to what actually happens, in a country in which regulations notoriously are not often the basis of practice." And how paradoxical that this should be so, when the evidence of this book seems to show how much the Spaniards, in education at least, care for printed rules and norms.

The paradoxes come thick and fast, once you are in the mind to find them. Take this one: the *Ley Moyano* of 1857, which formulated the structure of the education system, was one of the first pieces of legislation in any country prescribing compulsory education; but no comprehensive education act was passed again until 113 years later, in 1970. Still, it is not difficult to see why this should be so: in many ways the Franco regime put the system on ice for 40 of those years. Such ground, once lost, is not easily recovered.

One could not find a Spaniard who would write such a book as this (there's a challenge), and John McNair is to be congratulated for making the effort. In Spain last November I was looking for a Spanish book on the system, and was greeted with polite surprise. The general view was: "We don't look at the system like that; a Spaniard wouldn't write such a book." So there's a plus: John McNair describes the system and its parts, somewhat like an essay in which the student has to explain ice to a child who has never seen it.

He is tremendously useful, for instance, on the exact differences between the *café* and the other ranks of teacher, and between *Formación Profesional* and *BUP* (Bachillerato Unificado Polivalente) and how those differences arose. He outlines the curriculum and its declared goals at all stages, and looks into the horrors of the system's past, the desperate attempts to reform it, and the current state of affairs.

are usually held in Madrid over a week or 10 days, and centre on the *cuestionario*, a list of 100 topics which the candidate has had to learn, although he or she will only be examined on two. The pass rate is very low. McNair quotes a typical example of an *oposición* in English in 1980 in which of 195 who started the week, only 30 passed.

To continue the pluses, McNair also manages to get the Civil War into two paragraphs and the Franco years into five, which is no mean feat. Thought at the same time he manages within 10 pages to repeat a number of items about Spain's recent economic history, which I only needed to be told once.

On the minus side, there is something missing in the interpretation. Spaniards, as I have said, do not see the system in the same light, and I would have welcomed greater analysis of this and of actual educational practice and achievements.

The publishers are indeed right to proclaim proudly in their blurb that this is the first comprehensive account of Spanish education ever published in English, and for that I thank them and the author. The problem is that the Spanish education system has now become interesting to an audience wider than just students of comparative education and of Spanish because of something that is hardly touched on at all. Namely, the arrival at the end of 1982 of Spain's first socialist government for nearly half a century. It is the government's attempt to revise the system in the light of educational models available to it from the rest of Europe that makes Spain's educational system today so well worth the study to everyone concerned with education.

Sadly, the bulk of this book must have been written before this new activity, and so it is oriented much more to the reforms of the previous, centrist government. Felipe González, and his education minister José María Maravall, are committed to a thorough revision of secondary education, the reform of the universities, the decentralization of much educational decision-making to the regions, and—perhaps most important of all—taking head-on the Church's involvement in education (over a quarter of young Spaniards are currently being educated in Church schools).

McNair prepares the ground for these developments, many of which were expected, but we return to where we began: the paradox. Why is it that the publishers were not prepared to wait six months and integrate the summary of new developments and trends, recent events with the text? Instead, we have an uneasy postscript to an otherwise valuable book.

Simon Evans

Transition

The Education of the Handicapped Adolescent—The Transition from School to Working Life. Report by the Centre for Educational Research and Innovation.
OECD £3.80. 92 64 12438 1

This volume is the second to be published as a result of the CERI project "The Handicapped Adolescent", which set out to study the complex issues which face individuals with disabilities during their final years of schooling and in making the transition to adult life. It is in two parts: an overview of problems common to the member states of the OECD, for example work preparation and the provision of counselling and career advice, and second (this makes up the bulk of the book), a series of case studies and reports highlighting either specific issues or examples of facilities for young people with disabilities.

Generalization is inherent in any overview, and this book is no exception. One consequence of this is that the specific nature of individual problems are lost in broad categories, giving an appearance of homogeneity, and creating the impression that a similar pattern of provision is appropriate for all types of disabled people. A further problem results from the range and diversity of provision available in any one country which may or may not be comparable with that available elsewhere, even assuming that problems of definition can be resolved satisfactorily given the limited space allocated to discussion of particular issues. In part this could have been overcome by reference to other publications, but unfortunately none are given.

In the second part of the book the various contributors fall into the trap of listing facilities and staff, thinking that this adequately describes provision. Too little attention is paid to the curriculum content and the way in which teachers and students interact in the achievement of the overall objective of the particular institution. The choice of papers for inclusion also seems somewhat idiosyncratic, and there is little apparent underlying logic. It would have been better to have included fewer, more detailed papers, and an editorial summary of the rest.

Useful discussion of the role of parents and their relationship with professionals is provided in the section by Mittler, Chelcheldine and McNachie, stressing the essential normality of the parenting role and the difficulty of preserving this when there is extensive professional involvement.

Tactful recognition of the increasing difficulty in finding work for young people with disabilities is given throughout the book, but it is only in the section by Tizard and Anderson that consideration is given to alternatives. Even here the concomitants of work, such as an income above subsistence level, status and independence are neglected.

In short then, a frustrating book—tantalizing in what it leaves out rather than satisfying for what it includes.

Alastair Kent

Philip Riden's lively *Local History: A Handbook for Beginners* (Batsford £12.50, 0 7134 3870 3 and £5.95, 3871 1) is a soundly practical approach. Mr Riden knows and enjoys the documentary materials, and is good at helping you dig them from their hiding places. He is healthily sceptical about fieldwork and blinkered antiquarianism, and positively scathing on industrial archaeologists. But in practical matters, whether sorting out out of the legal technicalities of land transfer, or advising on how not to upset local archivists, or the PRO, Mr Riden is very helpful indeed.

Tom Carr

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BOOKS

Delighting and instructing

Ben Jonson: To The First Folio. By Richard Dutton.
Cambridge University Press £15.00 and £4.95.

S J Simon's *Unlucky Expert* comes to mind as one contemplates Ben Jonson. No one questions his stature and his genius. Yet when it comes to reading him, most of us steal silently away, pursued by reproachful cries from his admirers that we ought to be ashamed of ourselves. What went wrong?

Richard Dutton, the latest of the Tribe of Ben, offers some clues, though not wholly intentionally. His subject is the First Folio of 1616, the focus and statement of Jonson's achievement to that date. The Folio brought together a selection of plays, masques and entertainments, poems: it formalized Jonson's claims to be a serious artist: it paved the way for Shakespeare's posthumous Folio (1623). And it registered Jonson's claim as a poet, rather than a mere playwright (a term, as Mr Dutton

reminds us, used disparagingly by Jonson himself). The Folio is a milestone in the history of English letters, and Mr Dutton analyses its parts with sympathy and unflinching zeal.

And yet, the Tribe of Ben's arguments have an unfortunate trick of replicating their master's. Jonson was a hard-sell specialist: "By God 'tis good, and if you like it, you may," Mr Dutton, more mildly, notes of Jonson's unread poems "it is a moot point whether the fault lies primarily with the poems or with the readers". Not so: no guilt attaches to non-readers. Again, Jonson often appealed to "understanding", and Mr Dutton is certain that this is the key. "It is implicit in Jonson's whole approach that true understanding can lead to a better life and a better society, if we will make the effort." True, but trite. One needs something better than a bland confirmation of authorial virtue. The error (as with Shaw) is to take a writer's prefaces, prologues, and pronouncements as the index to his work.

What is missing here is the anarchic, reminds us, used disparagingly by Jonson himself). The Folio is a milestone in the history of English letters, and Mr Dutton analyses its parts with sympathy and unflinching zeal.

foul-minded Jonson whose plays, with their fetid atmosphere and brutal high spirits, illustrate the black comedy of life. Mr Dutton does not care for comedy: "for us... comedy is so much less a form than, say, epic or tragedy". He ignores the stage history of Jonson, nor does he seem to have enlarged his own understanding via contemporary productions. Of *Volpone*, he speaks of "the sober propriety of Celio and Bonario, who seem naive and uninteresting...". That is an oddly po-faced account of the play's stonings and spokespersons for the Better Society. Asked in Court to name their witnesses, they reply: "Bonario: Our consciences. Celio: And heaven, that never fails the innocent."

I remember the gale of laughter at the National Theatre (in the Hall/Scotfield production) as the two dolts squeaked out this imbecility. Jonson always liked to advertise the high road, the claim to "delight and instruct": the plays by which we remember him are something else.

There remains a mental limitation, and Jonson himself is witness. In *Timber*, he wrote of Shakespeare: "Many times he fell into those things, could not escape laughter: as when he said in the person of Caesar, one speaking to him, 'Caesar, thou dost me wrong.' He replied, 'Caesar did never wrong, but with just cause,' and such like, which were ridiculous."

Now this line does not appear in *Julius Caesar*, and it's a fair guess that Shakespeare deleted it following objections. But Trevor Nunn put the line back (at III. i, 47-8) into his RSC production of 1972. And it worked. The line became a conscious paradox, applauded as such by a sympathetic Senate. It is a brilliantly provocative statement of a cruel all dictators face. Shakespeare knew this; Jonson didn't, or could not admit the "absurdity" as a paradox. That is partly why, centuries on, we are reading one Folio and not the other.

Ralph Berry

Put in order

Brecht in Context. By John Willett.
Methuen £12.50. 0 413 50410 7.

A new book by John Willett is always something to look forward to. *Brecht in Context* does not disappoint. Indeed, it is a pleasure once again to be guided through the complexities and enigmas surrounding the great German poet, playwright and theatre director, in prose that is as direct and lucid as that of a good novel.

Some hearts may sink at the thought of yet another book about Brecht. Converts and idolaters will snap it up, expecting to find confirmation of what he means to them. They will have to reckon with Mr Willett's admirable objectivity. Many people will, I fear, let it be convinced by well-circulated half-truths that its subject was a "pinko" playwright of peripheral political interest. They would be both misguided and wrong.

Their misgivings undoubtedly derive from the way his "writing, the poetry and the actual realization of the plays" have so often been presented to the English-speaking public.

Finally, *Brecht in Context* is an outstanding introduction to its subject for the young, in whom Mr Willett has much faith and for whom, in part, the book is written. In them, he believes, Brecht stimulates simple questions "which are a challenge to answer, because they don't depend on expert or technical knowledge". Such questions compel thought, which is the true goal of education. The present work will immeasurably enrich Brechtians young and old, especially those who think they know it all.

David Blewitt

Alan Ayckbourn. By Michael Billington.
Macmillan-Modern Dramatists £11.00. 0 333 29196 4. £3.95. 29197 2.

The thing about Ayckbourn is that he is extremely popular. In the last two years, according to Arts Council figures, his plays have overtaken even Shakespeare's in attracting audiences to regional theatres. It's fairly obvious why: people like his plays: they are funny and clever and they deal with recognizable relationships between people of the theatre-going classes. What is less obvious is why audiences are prepared to keep up with Ayckbourn's prolific output. The answer may be that Ayckbourn exploits a happy combination of predictability and unpredictability in his work. His themes and his treatment of them, are always recognizable (he is, after all, a playwright who has been called "the Norman Conquests" a catalyst

of course his experimentations with stage geography (the two living-room superimposed on each other in *How the Other Half Loves*; the flattened house in *Taking Steps*). He also draws attention to an important talent Ayckbourn has for showing how people react to each other rather than having his characters spell things out.

Like others in the series, the book is primarily a chronological account of the work so far. Billington is a trustworthy guide, abstracting noteworthy features from each play, selecting good quotations, tracing thematic developments, and, importantly, giving insights into how the plays will affect the theatre. My only misgiving is that Billington's short summaries of plot and character are sometimes so economical that characters are reduced to a couple of words—"a childless dingo", a bovine boor"—which suggests that they are mere stereotypes. And there is, a facious quality in calling Norman in *The Norman Conquests* "a catalyst



Close to the former cello printing city of Manchester is Platt Hall, an elegant eighteenth century dwelling which has housed, since 1947, the private collection (some 3,500 items of historic clothing) donated by Dr C Willett Cunningham and his wife, whose authoritative work on the subject helped to make the study of dress respectable.

The permanent exhibition is of international importance and Fabric of Society: A Century of People and their Clothes 1770-1870 illustrates lavishly the town and country costumes which are there presented. This delightful history will be an important reference book for students.

Platt Hall serves as a research centre and is open from April to September. The book is available from the gallery or from Laura Ashley shops.

Betty Tadman

Stuck upstream

under a cold, lead roof" for example, or *Clyde in Sector 9*—the catalyst among the pigeons—that certainly pulls after a bit.

But Billington has done a good and worthwhile job. The only regret is that his study has to end at an uncomfortable place in Ayckbourn's career, when the less than successful *Way Upstream* is upmost in most people's memories. *Way Upstream* represented several new departures for Ayckbourn, none of which was for the better: it was blatantly allegorical; it contained two characters who were unbelievably evil (Billington thankfully resists the temptation to call them "ship's catalysts") and it diverted far too much of the audience's attention to the feeble manoeuvrings of a large boat in a very small pond. Not a happy ending, then, but perhaps a good juncture at which to take stock.

Lynne Truss

Audenary

W H Auden: The Critical Heritage. Edited by John Haffenden.
Routledge & Kegan Paul £19.95. 7100 9350 0.

It is ten years since Auden died and six since, through the dedicated efforts of Edward Mendelson, all his poems have been made available in *Collected Poems* (1976) or *English Auden* (1977), including those he had discarded. And now John Haffenden, with admirable objectivity, has selected 135 first reviews and essays by some of the most perceptive Anglo-American critical writers of our time, of each Auden volume on publication. All contributions are largely inaccessible elsewhere.

They are all here—the damners, the doubters and the devotees—from Leavis to Grigson, concluding with Irvin Ehrenpreis's penetrating critique of *Collected Poems*. But more valuable than any single contribution is the editor's long Introduction, synthesizing the salient points of his contributors with dozens of key sentences from other sources.

Yet, despite complete textual availability, no book assessing the whole of Auden's poetry has been attempted since Monroe K Spears's invaluable survey, *The Poetry of W H Auden: The Disenchanted Island* in 1963. With Auden's impressive achievements—the 670 pages of *Collected Poems* with scarcely a really bad poem included; with what John Press calls his "technical wizardry"; and with his *Light Verse*, widely hailed as the century's finest—this is surely surprising. It indicates an absence still of any consensus on Auden's true place in the poetic pantheon. Spears had found him "not yet classified or predictable", and Mr Haffenden thinks it still a debatable question whether Auden should be taken as a serious poet or indeed from the beginning. For this I think there may be several reasons, some extra-literary; but one I think predominates.

In 1960 Auden discarded a considerable number of poems from *Collected Shorter Poems, 1927-1957*, and some we had greatly cherished, eg "Spain", and the superb "September 1, 1939", were rejected as being "dishonest", voicing beliefs he never held and feelings he never experienced. Now, if true, could a poet who did that ever be taken quite seriously again? But there is another possibility. Could the poet of 1960, no longer capable of seeing himself as he really was 20/30 years before, have put the worst—and mistaken—construction on what he had done in publishing them? From conversations with Auden in Kirchstein in 1970, I am convinced that that is what had happened, though it is, unfortunately, not susceptible of proof.

It is to be hoped that a careful reading of Mr Haffenden's collection of appraisals will lead to a closer study of Auden's American poetry, and a less emotive, more balanced assessment of his whole work. When all reservations have been made, however, Auden certainly remains for me a major poet; though, almost equally certainly, not one of the highest rank.

Hermann Peschmann

Pocket Classics: Life's Little Ironies. By Thomas Hardy. 0 8609 069 6; A Group of Noble Dames. By Thomas Hardy. 093 9. The Spotted Dog and Other Stories. By Anthony Trollope. 071 8. Alan Sutton Publishing Limited £1.25 each.

This is a snug little series, attractively presented, and accurately entitled "Pocket" classics as readers will find as they easily tuck their chosen volume into pocket or handbag to be ready for whiling away otherwise lost hours. To achieve this comfortable result the print has been reduced to the smallest tolerable size which, although it might deter the half-hearted and certainly demands a good light, is, in fact, clean and easy to read. These three volumes of perennially satisfying short-stories form a welcome addition to the series.

A very brief biographical outline by Nicholas Mander precedes each text and the Hardy volumes also contain his own preface notes.

Katya Watter

BOOKS

Getting started

Encounters with Books. By David Jackson. Methuen £9.95. 416 33060 6. £4.95 33210 2.

Encouraging Writing. By Robert Protherough. Methuen £10.95. 416 34050 4. £4.95 34060 1.

Let me begin by being quite explicit (and by offering a gift to Methuen's publicity department). Despite some minor weaknesses, this new series of teachers' books on the teaching of secondary English deserves a most enthusiastic welcome. It is timely, sensible and practical. It is neither political nor polemical. It is concerned simply to describe some and effective classroom practice and will be of considerable help to student teachers and a source of comfort and inspiration to many with more experience.

The best of this first trio of titles is David Jackson's *Encounters with Books* (subtitled *Teaching Fiction 11-16*). Succinct, confident and inspiring, it begins by showing narrative fiction to be a primary human necessity, a way of making sense of a volatile world, and then goes on to assess the value of fiction to young people. David Jackson next provides three eminently practical chapters on "Bringing the text to life", "Building a constructive reading environment" and "Fresh ways of working with texts". The second half of the book presents case studies of reading strategies used successfully with what the author sees as the three phases of growth or maturity that can be noted within the 11 to 16 age range.

The book ends with realistic suggestions for class libraries for each of these phases: lists which might perhaps have been annotated. If only briefly. More might also have been said about television (both as a way into a novel and as a way to book-reading) and, as the case with other titles in this series, an index would have been useful. Even so, this is a concise and constructive introduction to its subject.

Robert Protherough's *Encouraging Writing* is rather more leisurely but equally helpful. I feel certain that the author must be a great comfort to his students during teaching practice. He knows all the problems that beset English specialists, not least teachers of other subjects who pontificate on

the teaching of writing. He also knows about those worrying pupils whose brilliant creative work includes such asides as "Mr. . . . goes into the girls' toilets" and the English teacher's tendency to reach for a red biro even on opening a letter from a friend or relative.

It might have been sensible if the book had concentrated more explicitly on the encouragement of personal (as opposed to transactional) writing but there are splendid chapters on planning and starting a programme of imaginative writing, a valuable analysis of the process of composition (with a salutary reminder that teachers should on occasion attempt the creative tasks they set their pupils) and a very wise section on "Receiving the writing". A series of resource lists concludes this humane handbook.

As I have written a book myself on almost exactly the same topic as *Encouraging Writing*, I might be expected to be more critical of this book than the others in the series. Embarrassingly, I am not.

Lewis Knowles has much of value to say about the process of learning through talking (especially in discussion groups), he offers good advice about the assessment of such talk and quotes extensively from Douglas Barnes and other authorities. He describes the management of prepared talks in class and subsequently discusses "talk in a formal setting" (eg mini-debates), reading aloud and spoken English examinations (although oddly there is no real awareness of the work of the English Speaking Board).

There is nothing about improvisation and little about role play. That is his privilege but the step-by-step description of a mock interview ("The teacher's desk and chair were positioned sideways on to the class and the interviewers' chair opposite") does suggest a lack of awareness of much that is happening in many classrooms and of what can happen in drama lessons. If *Encouraging Writing* is not so imaginative a guide for young teachers as its companion volumes, it will prove a vital weapon for any head of department who is trying to reassure a traditionalist that it is possible to get back to basics and embark on oral work. But that is one of the genuine strengths and virtues of the series: it is safely middle-of-the-road, and will have all the more good effect for that.

David Self

Deschooled

Better Than School. By Nancy Wallace. Lonsdale Publications \$14.95. 0 943914 05 1.

Anything School Can Do You Can Do Better. By Maire Mullaney. Arlen House/Marion Boyars \$6.25. 0 905223 38 1.

School schooling or home schooling - it's not surprising this is an emotive subject. Authority and power, social and moral values, manipulating the attitudes of the young is what schooling is all about. But then so is family life. Home schoolers prefer to make the indoctrination consistent by doing it all themselves, and thus avoid a clash of values between home and school. But perhaps if schools' values were closer to their own they wouldn't feel home-schooling was so necessary.

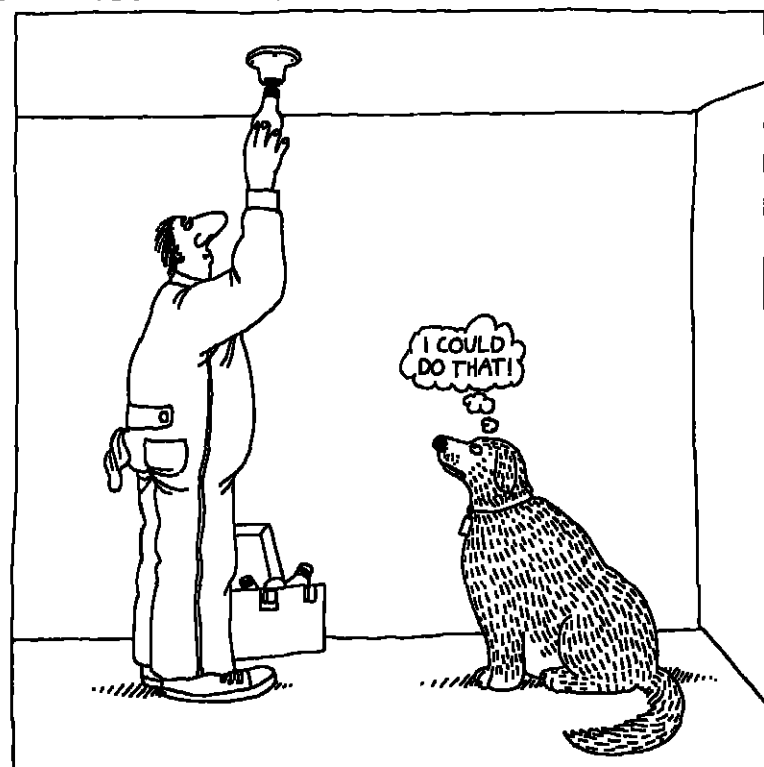
The Mullaney and the Wallace came to home-schooling by different paths, though the schools they didn't send their children to seem to have been equally good ones to avoid. Living in an isolated spot outside Dublin when their first child reached school age in the early Fifties, the Mullaney family found getting her to school was never a possible option. Though several of their 12 children did eventually spend time in one school or another, their early schooling was almost entirely carried out at home. And apart from a Montessori school in Dublin, brushes with school involved learning by rote and by the belt, with the use of imperfectly understood Irish as the medium of instruction producing confusion and hampering learning.

the end of the Seventies. Ismael was unlucky with his teacher who expected first grade children to fit into the pattern of first grade work. He inconveniently learned to read too soon, graduated on to the third grade reader which involved the third grade-work book which involved prepositions and prefixes and suffixes of which not surprisingly he had never heard. And he would keep reading ahead by mistake which his teacher had expressly asked him not to do. Nothing he did seemed acceptable and like his biblical namesake Ismael became an isolate, tense and withdrawn.

Home-schooling isn't easy in the USA; in some states it is illegal. The Wallaces lived in a state where it isn't. Wallace says that in a state where it isn't, you can convince the school board of its benefit for your children. After many a doubt and fear the Wallaces won permission and embarked on the saving of Ismael, gentler, more gentle, more gentle. Maire Mullaney, it had been much easier for the Mullaney family where the authorities apparently hadn't been too interested in how - or even whether - their children were educated.

In both families it was the mother who primarily took on the task. Both Maire Mullaney and Nancy Wallace seem to have been remarkable educators, delighted to learn along with their children and placing great emphasis on teaching independent thinking while always ready to respond to interest and enquiry. Both put a great value too on creativity, whether in writing, in drama or in art. Both believe that the best learning is fun.

But these values are just the values which home-schoolers would like to see in all schools. It is not surprising that the Mullaney and the Wallace families are so successful in their home-schooling.



From *Luminous Animals and Other Drawings* by Kilban. Penguin £2.95.

Telegraph boys

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Thin Ice. By John Branfield. Gallancz £5.95. 0 575 03350 9.

Sam Goldwyn is said to have believed that messages should be left to Western Union, and a novel like this tends to support his theory. Mr Branfield has an unimpeachable motive - to encourage his young readers to think more sensitively and in a less prejudiced way about the implications of being a male homosexual, but his consciousness of his purpose is the death of fiction.

This is his second novel about sixth-former Andy Trewin and his friendship with a responsible and serious homosexual journalist and evening class lecturer. It is only in this one that Duncan admits his sexual orientation to his friend, though Andy has always been aware of it, and great

stretches of the novel are taken up with earnest discussions of Duncan's feelings and situation - a particularly anxious one since the novel is set in 1947, while homosexual acts between consenting adults in private were still criminal offences.

Mr Branfield has the bones of a strong story here, with Andy confused about his own feelings, Duncan anxious not to let sex interfere with friendship, the shadow of the law looming and the bitter postwar winter providing a threatening setting. Somehow it all goes for nothing: Mr Branfield's honourable concern not to make melodrama out of his subject-matter, and his didactic intention, drain all the life out of his narrative, and in the end neither Duncan's trial nor the floods which follow the great freeze have an impact on the reader. It is as if they must be distanced for propriety's sake. All that is permitted is the earnest talk. If only Mr Branfield had let his characters be they might have communicated his message for him, but he has reduced them to mere telegraph boys.

Audrey Laski

Sweet and sour

The Other Side of the Fire. By Alice Thomas Ellis. Duckworth £7.95. 0 7156 1809 1. Not now but NOW. By M F K Fisher. Chatto and Windus. The Hogarth Press £8.95 and £3.95. Summer at the Haven. By Katherine Moore. Allison and Busby £6.95. 0 85031 511 5.

Classical reference and extracts from a turgid Gothic novel being written by one of the characters suggest hidden depths to Alice Thomas Ellis's novel which aren't really there. Claudia, a housewife's section, is a modern Pandora, in love with her stepson, Philip (like Hippolytus, the name means "lover of horses"); her confident Nurse-figure is a wood-dwelling divorcee called Sylve (Artemis as opposed to Venus). Sylve's bitch, Gloria, is apparently an emblem of natural femininity. Slight, but the pretentiousness is compensated by elegance and wit.

M F K Fisher is a cookery writer; this, her only novel, first appeared in 1947. Its heroine, like Becky Sharp, is selfish, ruthless and amoral. The reader is initially uneasy, suspecting an invitation to identify with corruption. Towards the end there is a complete upturn and some resolution. The book is not really a novel, but (in the author's own words), "a string of brightly lit sand with a few toys and spades on it and a friendly group of teddy bears and dolls looking on."

The audience is not admitted to the small studio theatre until the moment the show is scheduled to begin. As they walk into the darkened auditorium, children chattering and pointing excitedly at the illuminated band, the actor, crouched on it with a stick over his knees, commands them to "Shhh!" At the other end of the band, the actress stands very still in a long coat and points a silvery toy gun at anyone who stirs or makes a noise. If any noise persists, the actors converge

Valerie Grosvenor Myer

Literary forms

Understanding the Elements of Literature. By Richard Taylor. Macmillan £12.95. 0 333 26320 0. £4.95. 26321 9.

There is a discrepancy between subject matter and the language and style in which it is presented that makes it difficult to be sure to whom this book is addressed. Undergraduates and "all students of literature in English" form the principal readership the author has in mind; but after the years spent in O and A level studies most students coming from English schools will already know much of its contents, whereas students from other countries studying English as a wholly or partially foreign language will find the matter helpful but the expression of it unnecessarily difficult.

Apart from this central weakness, this is a most useful book, particularly for teachers of literature as it presents an efficient framework upon which a course of study could be based.

The first chapter forms a general introduction which aims at explaining the nature of literature and how best to read it. It reminds one of the elementary but nowadays often forgotten fact that the stories and even the language of the Bible and the classics are the major influences in English literature and a student must be familiar with both. It gives a brief, rather over-simplified history of our literature and the influence of political and other events upon it, based upon a division into four somewhat arbitrary periods, themselves subdivided in a way that makes for tidiness if nothing more. The introductory chapter is followed by three more dealing in turn

with narrative, drama, and poetry and speech.

These three literary forms are explained carefully and useful aspects of each are covered. The fact that in spite of the large number of examples given there are still not enough is inevitable in a work of this kind; and, although a stumbling-block to a student learning on their own, will not matter to teachers with their wider range of reference.

In all these chapters, the author begins by listing the different subdivisions of narrative, drama and poetry giving examples. This listing is followed by a section on what the author calls the Aesthetic Elements of each and in these he enumerates, defines and gives examples of style, construction, characterization and method of approach and, in the case of drama, types of theatre, use of scenery, acting techniques and the place of dance.

In chapter four, entitled Poetry and the Music of Speech, in the second section, the Structuring of Poetry, devoted to pitch and stress, useful examples are given. This is followed by a section on the language of poetry and the language of drama, and the language of the novel, and the language of the play.

This book is more, however, than a collection of definitions and examples as the author never forgets that he is dealing with the experience of becoming acquainted with a living literature. The book is aptly named, as he constantly aims, through understanding of its forms and techniques, at increasing the reader's response to the books he reads. Katya Walter

THEATRE/DRAMA

Child's play

There's an old theatrical adage which warns actors against sharing the stage with children. It has been successfully turned on its head in a new workshop production at Riverside Studios, in which small children are not only invited on stage - they are allowed to take over the whole show.

This extraordinary piece of theatre is the joint production of Riverside's director Simon Usher and Craig San Roque, a Jungian psychoanalyst who has worked with children as a play leader and therapist. It is called "Playing and Reality" after the book by the late D W Winnicott, as it was inspired by the famous child therapist's ideas about creating a space for children to express their ideas and feelings in play.

They have created a dramatic setting in which the children in the audience, some only two years old, are drawn into the action and subsequently become so absorbed in what they are doing that they forget the audience out in the dark area beyond the spotlight. The audience is able to "observe the patterns of children's play" (as their poster advertises) while the children merely play.

The show is, however, something more than a play session under spotlights: it is a dramatic venture in which adults and young children share the experience of theatre, with its illusions and terrors, as well as the sense of creative release which goes with audience participation.

Though it is unscripted and each performance is allowed to develop in its own way, the opening scene is always played in a mood of high tension with an actor and an actress fiercely and silently poised to defend the "stage" area - a strip of brightly lit sand with a few toys and spades on it and a friendly group of teddy bears and dolls looking on.

The audience is not admitted to the small studio theatre until the moment the show is scheduled to begin. As they walk into the darkened auditorium, children chattering and pointing excitedly at the illuminated band, the actor, crouched on it with a stick over his knees, commands them to "Shhh!" At the other end of the band, the actress stands very still in a long coat and points a silvery toy gun at anyone who stirs or makes a noise. If any noise persists, the actors converge

on it, lowering. (Our photographer, with her clicking camera, came in for some heavy disapproval.)

After five minutes of this tension is palpable. No one dares to fidget. The play has begun. Then the smallest child in the room, his concentration exhausted, grizzles and starts to wriggle on his mother's knee. He is beckoned onto the stage with her and as he trots out on to the bright sand his bad temper visibly evaporates. In a few seconds he is bursting into wild laughter as he jumps on a sand pudding his mother has just turned out of a bucket.

Other children in the audience watch this intrepid behaviour with interest. A small girl with plaits looks questioningly at her mother. A younger boy, perhaps not yet three, looks rather frightened but at the same time fascinated by the actor who has moved up quite close to him, playing with some toys in the sand. Suddenly the actor hands him a toy car. He takes it, looks at it, and hands it back. Moments later his chair and that of the girl with plaits are lifted up and carried, with their occupants, into the middle of the stage.

At this point the longed-for sand takes over the children's attention. Those who are still seated with their parents slide off their chairs and join in the illuminated beach scene. The actors, having given up defending the sand, take on a subservient role and offer the children tools and materials to use in the sand.

The small boy who was so frightened earlier is now digging with great determination. He fills a bowl with sand and briefly goes off to show it to his mother, then hurries back to resume his digging.

One of the mothers spontaneously begins to hum and then sings "Down by the Sally Gardens", followed by the lovely duet version of "We'll Gather Lilacs" (with her husband). Finally the two of them move round the stage, singing and acting "Anything you can do I can do better". It makes an enjoyable diversion for adults in the audience, who are by this time distinct-

ly out in the cold as well as the dark.

On stage, the children take not the blindest notice. They are too busy. A boy who has been setting up a train to run near the edge of the sand explains to the actor, "If there was more than this it could go all the way round there!" He is entirely unaware of the audience, like all the children building and digging and planting sticks, leaves and ivy in the middle of the stage.

Now comes a humped apparition, draped in a red cloak and snorting as it moves backwards along the edge of the stage, chased by a tiny pair of clockwork feet. This little surrealist pantomime is watched by one small girl who is standing nearby, rocking a doll in her arms, but ignored by the children in the sand.

At last the grown-ups who have been encouraging and handing out materials on the sand withdraw completely and the children are revealed, surrounded by the castles and rivers and forests and tiny model people and vehicles and roads of the world they have created. Indeed, they are still intent on creating it and unaware even of the rain of brightly coloured balloons that has been released to drift gently down upon their heads.

So what is it all about? What is the point? Discussion which followed this opening session made it clear that the experiment is going to be controversial. One mother objected to the branding of the toy gun at her two year old, complaining that he was frightened. Another mother liked the tense beginning and said that being frightened was one of the pleasures of the theatregoing. (The aggressive theme introduced by the actors was certainly followed up by the children later, threatening one another with the toy gun and even attacking our photographer!)

When I asked San Roque the reasons for the tense opening scene, he said "We worked it out that it had to be done this way. You create a space by defending it. If you just invite children to a nice free space, they may not



Camille Jessel

want to play there!" The aim of the exercise, beyond creating an entertainment for small children and their parents, was to give adults a chance to come here and watch and think about what happens when children play - and to do so in a theatre, which is a place where adults play. So that we may notice some relationship between culture and the play of children.

For me the most striking aspect of the "performance" was the intense concentration on the faces of even very small children playing creatively in the sand, completely regardless of what went on around them. It is the same

total absorption that is generated in a true adventure playground, where children are given space and materials to create a world of their own. I was reminded of the words of Montaigne: "It should be noted here that the play of children is not really play but must be judged as their most serious actions."

Jenny Pearson

"Playing and Reality", a workshop production sponsored by Mind, will be resumed at Riverside Studios during March. Details from Simon Usher 01-741 2251

Character, conflict - and text

Themes from Life By Graham Stoute. Harrop £2.25 0245 53998 0

English and drama teachers are in constant need of useful anthologies of short plays for classroom reading. This "sampler of contemporary drama", a rather contradictory description, is an interesting and in places unexpected collection of extracts, including the realistic, the highly stylized and the absurd. The extracts are accompanied by suggestions for follow-up work in discussion, writing and improvisation. The editor, Graham Stoute, tells us that they have all been chosen as reflections of the life we lead now. I was surprised by his assertion that "Not all plays debate social issues, examine human problems or explore human relationships". It would be instructive to see an anthology which managed to avoid these concerns, which one had always assumed were central to theatre and drama. However, he is correct in suggesting that this collection will be particularly useful to drama and theatre arts teachers as an introduction to textual study.

The suggestions for follow-up work are a curious mixture. Most of the discussion points focus on the text and its implications. Some of the ideas for written work, for example letters to a problem page, or writing one's own reference from the headteacher, might even overcome the widespread conviction of many pupils that "we don't do writing in drama". Others are rather odd, and may not immediately catch the imagination of the class - "research the growth and development of the sandcastle and write a short history of the sandcastle". Others are accon-

Humour and horror

Fun and Fright. Edited by R K Sadler and T A S Hayler. Macmillan Education £2.95.

Although it need not be used as such, *Fun and Fright*, a collection of 13 short one-act plays, could also be a useful introduction to the art of playwrighting. There are - thankfully - no how-to-do-it lessons like there are in American high school textbooks on the subject, but several of the plays are copybook examples of how the dramatist deals with such problems as characterization, suspense, conflict and the all-important climax. More basically, though, the book is fun. Each of the plays will have a direct appeal to children in lower secondary classes and is short enough to be read through in a single lesson. Slapstick humour and broad verbal comedy ("What's wrong with you?" - "I've swallowed a thermometer and I'm dying by degrees") are common to many of them.

Several also have short introductions suggesting how they can best be used - as classroom reading, as scripts to tape-record or as full staged productions. There are questions after each play to aid understanding and appreciation, and line drawings on nearly every page to break up what would be forbidding slabs of text. Drama, the book insists, is for enjoyment.

Although it originated in Australia there are only very occasional difficulties with language and idiom and none at all with the subject-matter of the plays. Humour and horror are apparently universal, in the English-speaking world at least; and now that virtually the whole of Britain is covered by independent radio stations, even a script like Alan Rowe's "The Over-Commercialized Radio Programme" will not need much introduction.

What appears to be an interesting selection of photographs which might have been useful stimulus material is included but rendered useless by being printed so small as to be almost invisible.

Carol O'Neill

Hugh David

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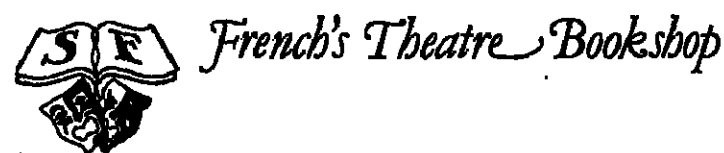
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Horn a' plenty

A small group of four and five-year-olds avidly watch Maudie Wilkins' magic tricks in one of the small upstairs rooms in Great Newport Street. Below them, in a larger room, another group is busily creating and improvising a story on the theme of circus life. In the basement bar performers, stage hands and a director are beginning to assemble for the matinee performance of the current play *The Green Ginger Smuggler*. This is the typically hectic Sunday lunchtime scene at the Unicorn Theatre for Children in the heart of the West End.

The Unicorn has a surprisingly long history. Founded and run by Caryl Jenner for over 20 years from 1948, the company was essentially a group of actors who toured the country with plays for children. In 1967 it took up residence at the Arts Theatre and later the directors had the admirable foresight to purchase a 20-year lease on one side of Great Newport Street. Now the Unicorn has a permanent home, and the Arts Theatre has become a tenant.

Unicorn's season runs from September to April and includes at least five house productions. Weekly performances are intended for school groups, with weekend matinees open to the public. Between May and September the Unicorn reverts to a small touring company and visits London parks and playgrounds.

Over the past 10 years, under the direction of Matylock Gibbs and currently Nicholas Barker, the Unicorn has developed as a tightly knit community of dramatic artists (linked by an apparently infectious enthusiasm for children's theatre. An artistic policy



and a pool of actors, directors, playwrights and technicians have grown up out of a network of professional and personal relationships within the theatrical community. During the close season many members return to the mainstream theatre, continuing the process of fostering and developing new links.

The Unicorn building seems appropriate to the organic nature of the company. The upper floors are a rabbit warren of rooms and studios used for workshop sessions, rehearsals and administration. The main auditorium, foyer and bar/restaurant below were recently fully refurbished to provide a suitable environment for professional productions.

The Unicorn Club has been set up to encourage weekday school visitors to become involved in the theatre through the regular weekend workshops. Club members receive "Unicornews" detailing forthcoming attrac-

tions and inviting bookings for workshop places. Schools come mainly from the Greater London area, though inevitably weekend participants tend to come from the more accessible inner London boroughs such as Camden and Islington.

Major productions are generally written for the Unicorn. A resident writer post, part-funded by the Arts Council, is held this year by Adrian Mitchell. Penny Casdagli, a former resident writer, has specialised in plays aimed at integrating deaf and hearing audiences. The work she has achieved in this area has led to the Unicorn becoming a focus for theatre work with the deaf. This is a tradition on which the Unicorn now hopes to build.

Christopher Denvir

Unicorn Box Office telephone 01-836 3334. Details of the Unicorn Club: 01-379 3280.

Hand in glove

An ex-lecturer in Drama at Alsager Training College, Liz Gamlin visits schools, libraries and playgroups teaching the basics of puppetry as well as performing for children. Puppetry has long been regarded as a highly specialized, almost mystical skill, with the emphasis on string puppets exquisitely reproducing human movement in miniature, but Liz Gamlin is committed to introducing much more accessible forms involving children inventing and making their own puppets and performing their own plays with them. So although one part of her extended puppet projects in schools is to give short puppet performances using an impressive variety of glove and rod puppets, her main aim is to work with classes of children taking a theme and a puppet convention and working up to performance from scratch.

In a recent project at Beechwood

Primary School in Crewe, the chosen theme was exploration and adventure (the fourth year junior class had just read *Gulliver's Travels* and were also studying exploration and explorers) and the chosen puppetry style was shadow puppets - the creation of simple shapes from card, joined for movement which can portray both characters and scenery by being held and moved against a backlit screen in a darkened room. The effect, as could be seen from Liz Gamlin's initial demonstration/performance is simple yet very dramatic. After a brief discussion about how the class could, in groups, create simple stories using the technique, the children quickly set to work making sketches for their own shadow puppets and scenery, all

doubts that shadow puppetry was making rabbits and birds with the hands firmly dispelled. Naturally on school visits Liz is very much in demand as a performer, so as well as the extended work with one class she's usually asked to do her "glove show". At Beechwood she performed before a rapt audience of mixed infants including a magnificent item where a glove puppet actually "built itself" out of a naked hand.

After a short demonstration about how effective puppets can be made out of household junk, which was as useful to the teachers as it was to the children, it was back to the fourth years, who were now ready to rehearse with their own shadow puppets, some of which

were very impressive. To Liz's relief, most of the chosen stories were about sea monsters and ship wrecks - far more suitable for shadow puppetry than the increasingly common astronauts and spaceships.

Perhaps the best way to describe the value of the work is to compare it to the visit of a good theatre in education. As well as an element of professional performance there's one of participation and involvement, with the added benefit that puppetry offers a happy meeting of expressive and visual arts. It's already known that in the area of language development, particularly for children who are orally weak, puppetry can provide a uniquely effective way around introversion and inhibition. The work certainly inspired fourth year class teacher Mrs Wynne, who candidly confessed herself to be "less than strong" in the art and craft area. She says that she'll be able to try shadow puppetry projects with future classes.

Sadly, but perhaps predictably, Liz Gamlin's main problem is funding. Lacking any source of permanent sponsorship, she relies on individual fees from schools, the occasional input from North West Arts, or, like the Beechwood work, from schemes set up by local libraries. It's a great pity - if her funding was in proportion to her enthusiasm for puppetry in education, she'd be very wealthy indeed.

Nick Baker



THEATRE & DRAMA

Orange blossom

The director of Richmond's Orange Tree Theatre rang up local schools. "What can we do for you?" he asked English teachers. Bring O level Shakespeare, plus discussion, here during the school day, they replied. Now in its third year, the Orange Tree's School Project currently offers workshops on both *Twelfth Night* and *Henry IV* Part 1.

The workshop format tells the story and introduces major characters, but concentrates on selected scenes rather than presenting the entire play. Props, costumes and cast are minimal. Anthony Clark, co-organizer of this year's tour, explained why workshops are useful for students reading set plays.

"Theatre is about making choices," he says. "At school, you generally get only the teacher's view of a play." Even seeing it on stage, an audience receives only the director's interpretation. In these workshops, though, the audience is encouraged to suggest various alternatives. Then, using their own ideas, students re-direct scenes, telling professional actors to change mood or characterization.

Partly because they're presented in gyms and cafeterias, the workshops are performed in the round. Students are asked to solve problems like how to hide three characters behind a hedge when the stage has no walls. This may seem unrelated to understanding Shakespeare, but Anthony Clark and his colleague Susan Hogg think otherwise. Theatre and drama go side by side, they insist, so "stimulating the students' visual imagination helps solve problems with the text."

Especially in Shakespeare's comedies, comprehension often depends on period knowledge. Mystified by a witticism, students are tempted to dismiss it as boring, then lose interest in the whole play. "Instead of worrying about a particular joke it's more useful to see why a comic duo is followed by a major battle scene," say the two

directors, pointing out that "appreciation of dramatic contrast carries over to Shakespeare's other plays."

Performing in a space normally used for eating lunch or playing games helps dispel prejudice about "going to the theatre". But distracting reminders make it essential to create instant atmosphere. Having learned that self-conscious schoolchildren are reluctant to participate once they've sat down, the directors begin to involve the audience in setting the scene as they file in.

Thus, *Twelfth Night* may begin with students miming a shipwreck. For *Henry IV*, the audience may be divided into warring factions. There's no set plan because there are so many variables: size of performing space, size of audience (which ranges from 40 to 250), level of discipline and "whether they're physically or intellectually oriented."

This year's six performers have been chosen as much for their theatrical imagination as for their acting talent. Because they've helped create the workshop's structure, they're likely to contribute more to discussions. Additional time has been set aside for audience questions this year, as a result of teachers' replies to a 1983 questionnaire about the project's usefulness. Informality and audience participation were favourably mentioned by many who responded, and several noted how themes from one play were linked to others.

Of the first 17 schools to sign up for 1984, 12 did so for a second or third year. For schools unable to provide the space, audience or £75 fee, the Orange Tree is presenting a few daytime workshops at the pub theatre in mid-March. The session lasts two hours.

Marsha Hanlon

Orange Tree Theatre, 45 Kew Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2NQ. Telephone 01-940 0141/3633.

Script sessions

Still Waters, By Julia Jones. Longman Imprint Books £1.50. 582 22072 6.

Easy On the Relish, By Andrew Bethell. Cambridge University Press, Act Now series. £1.35. 521 27820 1.

Faust and Furious, By Anne Lee. Cambridge University Press, Act Now series. £1.00. 521 28568 2.

Despite everyone paying lip service to the idea that the only thing to do with a play script is to rehearse and stage it, reading a play in class remains an incredibly popular activity. However, when it comes to finding plays for this purpose, there are two contradictory schools of thought. One has it that you must look for the best "real" plays and then help your students find ways into those texts; the alternative approach is to find plays described variously as "accessible" or "written especially for young people".

The two genres are neatly contrasted in recent additions to Longman's Imprint series and to the Act Now series from Cambridge University Press.

In the Longman volume, *Still Waters*, we have three scripts by Julia Jones, one of the best of a tragically rare breed, the woman television dramatist. All three are subtle, moving teleplays, written to be filmed on location; and the editor, Alison Lenke, deserves especial praise for adapting such fluid, evocative pieces into a form that reads happily off the page. The plays are "Back of Beyond" the story of a halting friendship between a schoolgirl and a middle-aged recluse, set in the Brecon Beacons; "Faith and Henry", a simple story of how a white boy and brown girl get to know each other walking home from school "the long way round"; and *Still Waters*, a painfully truthful story of a middle-

aged quarrel during a picnic 'by a waterfall'.

This is an anthology which will, in the very best sense, educate. Though its plays are not the most easily approached, they are infinitely rewarding.

Less rewarding but very much more approachable are the scripts published in the Act Now series, a series perhaps at its sweetest in one of last year's issues, *Faust and Furious*, a re-working of the Faust legend in which young John Faust, bored and frustrated with his production line job, sells his soul when he meets Miss M. in the, yes, Body and Soul Disco. As is apparent from the notes contributed by the author, it is a script written for specific circumstances but, nevertheless, it is one that works well and one that offers a large number of parts to young readers or performers.

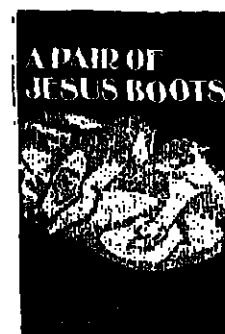
Easy on the Relish makes the same offers but snags a little too much of having been written to provide discussion points at the expense of its dramatic impact. That said, it is a powerful little piece about a struggle for workers' rights in an American-style hamburger bar. It is also highly realistic: that is, it contains some blasphemy and many obscenities. Additionally, it requires a fully operative burger-bar on stage which means that it would be incredibly expensive to perform. Actually, I do wonder whether it has ever been performed or even read in class. Some difficult production points would surely have been ironed out. For example, how is the young reader of a comic Latin speech meant to pronounce MCXVII? That said, it should be an immediate classroom success - provided you can stomach the language and endless talk of Double-decker Cheeseys Banjos and Thick'n' Sticky Chocohakes.

David Self

The Children's Theatre Association is a newly formed organization which aims to further the interests of professional theatre for children in London. Stephen Midland, Secretary, c/o Polka Children's Theatre, 240 The Broadway, Winton, London SW19.

Young theatre organizations - NATD, NADA, NATRE drama section, NADECT, NATV and SCVPT - have set up a liaison committee and are planning a course-conference combined with a national festival of youth theatres in 1985. Dick Willocks, 39 Welford Mount, Leeds LS6 1PT.

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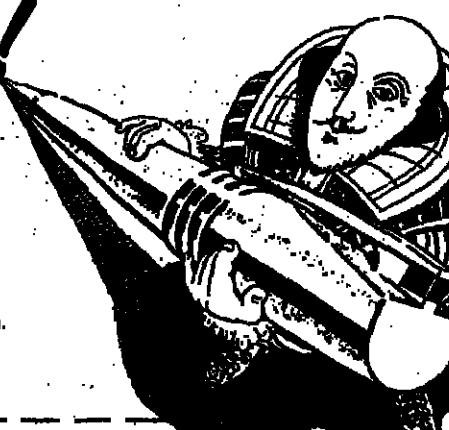
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THEATRE/DRAMA

Work stop

There is a certain irony in a group of today's unemployed young people occupying themselves unpaid by performing a play about the General Strike, a time when the working classes briefly demonstrated their strength by withdrawing their labour. The 20 strong cast of *Hot Time* consists of five professionals from the Common Stock Theatre Company and 15 young people recruited with the help of Capital Radio. No one who wanted to take part was turned away; commitment was the only requirement. The young people, all aged between 16 and 21, the actors and their director, Jennie Buckman, are to be congratulated on welding the two groups into a convincing theatre company.

A morning spent in the Common Stock's freezing rehearsal hall in Hammersmith, a week before the opening, revealed something of how this had come about. The group has not been consistent since work began on the project in April because people have sometimes found jobs and dropped out. Some found cross-London travel too much of a burden. Even on this particular morning someone was late because she had to sign on in Bethnal Green before coming to rehearsal - a lack-of-occupational hazard. Discipline has been a major, necessary virtue.

Jennie Buckman, who works with the youth theatre section of the Common Stock Company, encouraged research into the period. Nineteen twenty-six is well within living memory, so there were first-hand accounts to be gleaned locally and a wealth of photographic material, some of it on show on the rehearsal room walls. The young people's pleasure in their contribution to the production is enhanced by



The cast in rehearsal.

practical benefits. "When you're unemployed you begin to lose confidence," says someone. "It's good to prove you can do something." But this was never intended to be a show that was more fun to be in than to watch. Jennie Buckman was anxious throughout rehearsals to make every one aspire to professional standards, to be aware of the motives of their characters, clear about technical details, never willing to accept second best. Her most stringent criticism was to warn that something looked or sounded "very amateur dramatic".

Hot Time grew out of workshops and improvisations, but that early work was transformed into a script by playwright Bryony Lavery who had followed developments from the beginning. She kept characters and incidents invented by the cast but wove them into a whole, part fact, part fantasy. Jennie Buckman's direction serves the material well. There are set pieces which benefit from a larger cast than most professional companies could afford, like the Keystone Kops

chase and the pirate bus, an enjoyably rhythmic portrayal of a madly over-crowded strike-breaking bus made up entirely of people. Not a prop in sight. On the other hand, no one is asked to perform beyond his or her capacity in scenes which depend on individual characterization. We are presented with the miners' case, but also shown the indifference of some working class people; we are shown the bitterness that might divide a family, that some even made capital out of the Strike while for others, the well-heeled, it was rather fun.

Hot Time is a fast-moving show, swinging along to the songs and dances of the time (Zane Trow directs the music), with a good period flavour, plenty of information without preaching and lots of fun.

Heather Neill

Hot Time is at St Paul's Church, Hammersmith until March 10 and at the Albany Empire on March 12 and 13. (741 3086)

Wise Worthingtons

Although I taught drama in secondary schools for some time, I never turned out a real-life professional actor. It was the sort of thing I found myself confessing to the parents of stage-struck pupils on open evenings and to people whose first question at a party is always "What do you actually do?"

Quite often, usually after the school play, I would be approached by the endlessly patient and aptly named Miss Counsell, the careers teacher. "I've got another one for you," she would tell me in the staffroom. "James Smallworth, 4A. Wants to become an actor or a systems analyst." We had a pact, she and I. She would let me use the space outside her room to rehearse noisy video epics while she was showing fifth formers films about the importance of a firm handshake in the banking world. In return, I dealt with aspiring thespians.

I am ready when James approaches me. I would always ask pupils with acting ambitions what their second choice of career would be. If they said hairdressing or the SAS, I would explain that of the (not many) successful actors I knew, all of them had nursed but one burning ambition. I tried this with James, who I'd never taught and didn't know well. I remembered him as one of the growing group of computer addicts who crowded round a battered terminal in the corridor at lunchtimes, either glued to the screen or swapping strange looking magazines. "What about the career in computers?" I ask, half reproachfully.

"Oh, I just said that to Miss Counsell to give us something to talk about at my careers interview," I begin to take James a tiny bit more seriously as a potential actor.

So then we get started on the serious business of discussing the merits of joining the local amateur dramatics company, which was the best drama school, how hard it was to get a repertory theatre job as stage manager nowadays (the traditional "way in" in all the best theatrical biographies) and no it didn't matter if he wasn't very tall. I send James away with an indisputable and very readable book, Clive Swift's *The Job of Acting* (Harrap, £3.50) and tell him I expect to see him at the auditions for the next school play.

Comparing notes with Miss Counsell, I was relieved to find that she treated 14-year-old aspiring brain surgeons and astronauts as I treated the actors. At a first, informal careers interview, all you can do is set out the facts as you know them about how to get the job. Teacher colleagues on finding out that their charges wanted

to be actors would often react with hilarity or derision. The best way of countering this was to embarrass them by finding out what they wanted to be when they were 14.

I don't think I failed James Smallworth with my advice or the lack of it. I certainly never went on too long about the risk of unemployment by that age. Pupils were all too familiar with that anyway. It was nice to know that lots of them did go on to do youth theatre and amateur dramatics. If I could give them a taste for the theatre I counted it a major victory. I was particularly pleased when Alan, an ex pupil who worked in a West End bank that handled the account of a leading ticket agency, would ring me up and proudly offer free tickets that had come his way.

Parents would differ in their reaction to being told their offspring wanted to go on the stage. Some parents, particularly of girls, would take the "She'll grow out of it" attitude. A few would actually want me to talk them out of it. Most would sensibly "just wait and see" and may be relieved that some drama schools and all university drama departments had rigorous entry qualifications, so useful short-term goals could be set.

No, my failure to produce an actor never bothered me. It would have been quite nice, I suppose, to stand in the corner of some smoke-filled West End dressing room after a successful first night, telling myself that I was somehow responsible. I take comfort in knowing that some of the best performances I can ever hope to see have taken place on the "laundry mugs" in the darkened studio-canteen. I sneer at adland kids with those awful cheesy grins, secure in the knowledge that some of my pupils could have acted them off the screen. When I see strong young talent on stage my competitive hackles rise on behalf of the thousands of James Smallworths, the length of breadth of the country. Many of them could have done just as well, given the breaks.

However, when they, at the age of 16 or 17, set their sights on something more mundane, I was never disappointed. I do have one sad story, though. Thirteen-year-old Tanya, a former six hours outside the auditions for *Bugsy Malone* at Olympia last year. In the end, with only yards to go, she fainted and her mum had to take her home. I found out recently that Tanya doesn't want to be an actress any more. Now she wants to be an air hostess.

Nick Baker

RESOURCES

Professional video may be challenging film in the broadcast and industrial fields, but professional photographers still think of film as the only original medium. At the National Professional Photographic exhibition, "Photography at Work 84", held recently at Harrogate, several firms were showing video equipment but all the emphasis was still on film.

Particularly significant was the Kodak stand with not a trace of anything even remotely relating to video - significant because of the recent clumsy unveiling by Kodak of its move into the home video market. At press conferences held in London and 12 cities around the world, Kodak proudly announced that it would be selling a video camcorder (combined video camera and recorder) later this year.

The Kodavision camcorder will use a completely new video format, based on a cassette of 8mm magnetic tape. This format was agreed by the electronics and photo industry a year ago, as the basis for future video developments. But since then the VHS manufacturers have developed a camcorder that can do everything 8mm can do (and probably more). So most firms have lost interest in launching 8mm video. They see it as undermining their existing and future VHS sales.

Judging by the Harrogate show and Kodak's London press conference, the company is still very much a "wet-film" company. There is still no working prototype of its 8mm video camcorder. Tapes shown at the press conference came from a professional U-matic recorder and the 8mm camcorder was a wooden mock-up. Kodak showed only film at Harrogate and only wanted to talk about film. Certainly schools should not delay on the purchase of video equipment simply because they have read garbled reports of Kodak's promised entry into the field. In the USA, where Kodak's video announcement was met with equal suspicion, the Kodavision camcorder



notes

CHILDREN'S CINEMA CLUB

Catching on to the revival of interest in children's cinema clubs, the Barbican is to launch its own club on March 3.

The club, which will run every Saturday in Cinema 1, is aimed at 6 to 12-year-olds. The programme each week will include a cartoon and a feature film, with regular live events and competitions. Membership for the year is £1.00.

Details of membership and the March and April programmes from the Barbican Centre (tel: 01-628 8795).

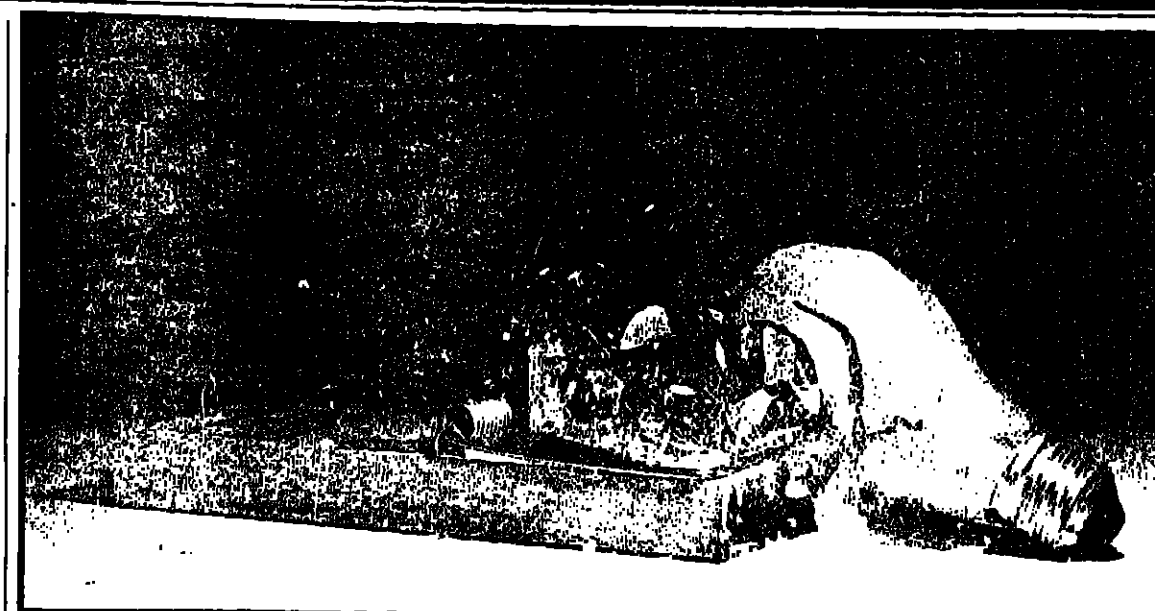
WINDSOR SAFARI PARK

Windsor Safari Park and Seaworld are offering a wide variety of educational facilities for schools. In addition to the nature reserves themselves, children can visit the natural history museum and attend talks on, for example, Whales and Dolphins, the Big Cats and Wildlife in Danger. Teacher packs contain a guide book, map of the park, tour script, worksheets and a synopsis of lectures.

Concessionary rates are available for school parties. Details from the Education Department, Windsor Safari Park and Seaworld, Windsor, Berks SL4 4AY (tel: 07535 69841).

Software

This month's Resources/Software review is in the Computer Extra, See page 34-35.



Snap!

Barry Fox visits an exhibition of "Photography at Work" and discovers that, among professionals, film is still "king"

is being described disparagingly as "Kodak's Polarisation". Most people will have forgotten Polarisation, but by an interesting coincidence it reappeared at Harrogate like Banquo's ghost from *Macbeth*. In the early seventies Polaroid caused much excitement by promising a movie version of its then relatively new instant picture snapshot film.

Instant movie Polarisation was not ready until 1977, by which time video had made it redundant. But Polaroid launched it all the same and suffered public embarrassment when the system inevitably failed dismally. Now Polaroid has used the Polarisation technology for a new product, instant picture 35mm slide film. It is the first time that Polaroid has sold film which can be used in any camera, not just a Polaroid camera.

Polarochrome colour slide film and Polapinn black-and-white film is exposed in an ordinary camera, just like ordinary film. But it is processed in a small box with a handle on the side which winds the film through a sheet of chemicals. After a couple of minutes the film is ready for slide mounting and projection. Obviously the system is ideal for anyone, for instance a school teacher or lecturer, who needs to

produce photographic slides for instant projection, but it is expensive and not without problems. The processing box costs £100 and a 36-shot roll of film costs £12. Film speed is low: the colour film has a rating of just 40ASA and the black and white is only rated at 125ASA. So poor light shots need flash or very long exposure. Also, because the process works by additive colour rather than conventional subtractive colour, the finished slide is optically rather dense. So it needs a powerful projector, a darkroom and a highly reflective screen to produce bright pictures.

For the technically minded the new slide film (like Polarisation) uses a transparent film base covered with a very fine grid of red, green and blue lines, as well as photographic emulsion. Development removes silver from exposed areas in front of the lines, to let through red, green or blue light depending on the picture content. White light on the screen is created by an additive mix of red, green and blue. In conventional film, dyed layers subtract colours and white is produced by clear patches. A clear patch obviously transmits much more light than the grid of colour filters used by Polaroid film.

Kodak is already selling a very fast film, for making colour prints. Kodachrome VR 1000 has a speed rating of 1000 ASA and can be used quite literally by candlelight. At Harrogate 3M was showing a colour slide film of similar speed rating. CR1000 will also do the candle trick. Both these films require conventional laboratory processing of course. Both can also be used to take colour photos through a telephoto lens. As any photographer knows, telephoto shots will be spoiled by shake unless the camera is mounted on a tripod, or the shutter speed is very fast. The only way to achieve high shutter speed, even in good light, is to use very fast or sensitive film. Fast films always suffer from grain which makes the picture look less crisp, but the 3M film also suffers from price - a 36-shot roll costs £5.50.

Nature photographers will be interested in the Mazof remote control flash and camera trigger. The basic unit (costing £87 from Z Markotic, PO Box 256, London N19) will trigger a flashgun by light, vibration or sound. It is an electronic switch with a sensor which registers even the most minute change in a beam of light. The sensor also works with infra-red radiation which is invisible to the human eye. An

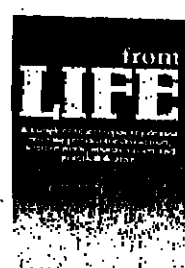
ordinary torch can be used to create the light beam and the remote control unit of a video or TV can be used to produce infra-red. When anything, even a human hair, breaks the beam for an instant, the sensor triggers the flash. This is obviously ideal for insect and wildlife photography. The vibration sensor is the needle which registers any movement and instantly triggers the flash. The sound sensor works as microphone detecting pressure waves in the air. It can even work with a CB radio by sensing the call tone bleep when the speak button on a remote CB transmitter is pressed.

The basic Mazof unit can only trigger an electronic flash unit. So the camera shutter must be left open in the dark. But a second unit, costing an extra £97, can also be used to trigger the camera shutter and (if the camera has motor drive) wind on the film afterwards. Photographs taken with the system show how it can freeze rapid action, like the shattering of a light bulb (see picture) or egg.

Although film is obviously still king in the world of professional photography, one firm at Harrogate was showing a video system that can analyse rapid motion sequences. So far this trick has been done with film which is run rapidly through a camera and then replayed slowly. It is possible to run video in slow motion, even on a domestic recorder, but each frame is irreparably blurred if there is rapid action. This is because video recordings are made at a standard rate of 25 frames a second, which is equivalent to a very slow shutter speed. A new breed of high speed video recorders, made abroad but sold in Britain by ILMIC of Thame, avoids blur. It does this by recording video pictures through a video camera fitted with a mechanical shutter which artificially reduces exposure time to as little as 1/10,000 seconds. But neatly typifying the slow acceptance of video by photographic firms, there was no one available at Harrogate who understood enough about the technology to explain it further.



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Riot act

Hallelujah Basingstoke! Central Studio, Queen Mary's College, Basingstoke.

The doughty *Hants and Berks Gazette* had a scoop on its hands in March 1881 when it ran a front page headline "Riots in Basingstoke". Worldly ruffians, it said, had taken to the streets, disturbing the "hallowed scenes" which usually marked Sundays in the town. A battery of the Royal Horse Artillery had been called out, more than one hundred special constables had been sworn in to keep order, the Mayor had even read the Riot Act from the steps of the Town Hall - and all because the Salvation Army were marching down Church Street.

Largely forgotten today, the dramatic scenes which rocked the small Hampshire town a century ago formed the basis of Nigel Bellare's play-with-music *Hallelujah Basingstoke!* But although the production by students from Queen Mary's College, Basingstoke and five professional actors from the Proteus Theatre Company was lively enough, I felt its sheer chirpiness and run-it-run choruses rather short-changed the story. A succession of short scenes showed the East End "Hallelujah Lassies", fearsome viragos with almost too much blood and fire, descending on Basingstoke and the alarmed reaction of the town's brewer-swinging "bourgeoisie", but there was not much hard information to explain why the men of the town, plied with drink by the brewers, should metamorphose almost to a man into a stone- and brick-throwing mob of so-called Masagians. That would have been far more interesting than the scenes of domestic discord Mr Bellare imagined taking place.

Technically, however, the production was a resounding success and fitted well in the superbly equipped Central Studio. Director Gareth Thomas's bold experiment of integrating experienced professional actors with a cast of more than 50 sixth-formers, most of whom had never been on stage before, paid handsome dividends. The production was marked by very assured, confident playing and, if the words of some of the songs were occasionally lost under the accompaniment, at least the dialogue was clearly and effectively delivered.

Hugh David

Know your company

British Alternative Theatre Directory. Edited by Catherine Itzin. John Offord £6.00, 0 903931 55 9. Theatre in Education and the Community. Eastern Arts Association.

The BATD is astonishing - 250 pages of small type outlining alternative theatre companies, young people's theatre, their venues and organizations. Despite cuts and economic stringency, fringe theatre still proliferates. No less than 191 small-scale touring companies are listed, with such appealing names as "Bloomers, Mouths and Pretty Distinguishing Things". The main additions to the early days of the fringe are women's companies; one of them apparently "came about through a series of mistakes". More familiar names are to be found among the middle-scale companies.

TBC is a scheme to bring professional actors, directors, writers and dancers living in the Eastern Arts region into contact with educational and amateur organizations which may be interested in learning from their experience.

Robin Rook

The Westminster Theatre Educational Programme is back!

8th-30th March 1984

Morning Programme "Nuts & Bolts"

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Bookings - Education Director, Westminster Theatre, Palace Street, London SW1 6JB. Tel: 01-628 6581.

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presents performances, workshops, exhibitions and events for children aged 3 to 13 throughout the year.

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Confucian order

China By John Robottom Two filmstrips with notes for each strip £11.00 from Common Ground, Longman's, 7056 2264 9 double frame.

It was the Chinese and not Tolkien's hobbits who first called their country "Middle Earth", the area between heaven and hell in which human beings dwell. To look at the history of China is almost, then, to examine a whole world, a world of fascinating difference from Western Europe. These two filmstrips, "How They Lived in Imperial China" and "Society in Change Since 1900", offer an excellent introduction to the geographical or historical study of this region for the middle-school child.

Imperial China lasted for almost two thousand years. To condense it into 33 slides is, as John Robottom himself writes, a difficult task. However, by selecting telling images under the three headings of "The Empire Grows", "Everyday Life" and "Crafts and Inventions" and by accompanying them with highly informative notes, Mr Robottom does surprisingly well at summoning up the spirit of a bygone civilization. He wisely does not go too far into the dynastic ups and downs which characterized much of China's past but spends more space on the sort of society which was of expansion and refinements of administration were directed towards preserving the Confucian orderly universe.

Within that universe there was beauty and also horror; we see the exquisite works of craftsmen and artists and the

Down to earth

Learning Through Science: Electricity; Earth By Doug Kincaid and Roy Richards Price: £11.95 each Schools Council/Macdonald Educational.

These two packs are the latest additions to the Schools Council's Learning Through Science project, the earlier issues of which were enthusiastically reviewed in this journal last year. Let it be said at the outset that the standards maintained, though with some slight reservations.

Each pack consists of two sets of strongly made workbooks and a teacher's guide. The cards are carefully designed to stimulate the kinds of thinking and acting characterized by the objectives of "Science 5-13", and teachers are strongly recommended to adapt the cards to the way of working best suited to their particular classroom organization. For this reason the workbooks are not numbered, though there are exceptions, for example in the *Electricity* pack where the authors have found it necessary to sequence some cards in the interests of efficient learning.

After a careful study of these two packs it becomes apparent that some topics lend themselves more happily to this approach than others. I found myself feeling uncomfortable through-out the *Earth* pack. For one thing the content is a bit stale and it proves difficult to convey a sense of immediacy to the various sub-topics. The identification of rock samples does not come easily off the page and many of

the suggested materials are not so readily obtainable by the non-specialist teacher despite the admirable lists of useful sources that are provided. It did not seem to me that all the activities suggested were obviously worthwhile, and the Teacher's Guide was a bit thin for those teachers with no background at all in this area.

Electricity, on the other hand, is well suited to this work approach and I was very impressed with the pack. Basic circuits are cleverly presented, with maximum opportunity for children to carry out purposeful and enjoyable tasks. Electromagnetism is a more difficult topic, but plenty of props are provided both on the workbooks themselves and in the Teacher's Guide. There are eight cards devoted to "electrical projects" such as the construction of burglar alarms and switches of various kinds, and these will surely be very popular with children.

In both packs the quality of illustration and printing is excellent, but I was disappointed to notice one or two typographical errors, and one quite confusing cross-displacement of text which occurs on the two cards "Church and Churchyard" and "Our School" in the *Earth* pack. I hope it is possible to put this right.

Phillip Hytch

Next week

John Tranter looks at biology equipment for investigating the activity the human heart

Village voices

Village School
BBC Midlands
March 5, 12, 19
BBC South West
March 23, 30, April 6.

This series of three, half-hour, documentary programmes charts the day-to-day life of a small village school in the Cotswold village of Ebrington, in Gloucestershire. The school (of 34 children) has survived by being linked, under the same headmaster, "in federation" with the larger primary school in nearby Clippingham.

Though the idea of the federation and how it works in practice is an important element in the three programmes, their main strength lies in giving the general public an absorbing insight into the many intertwining strands of work, recreation, pastoral and medical care which make up the daily and weekly round of a primary school.

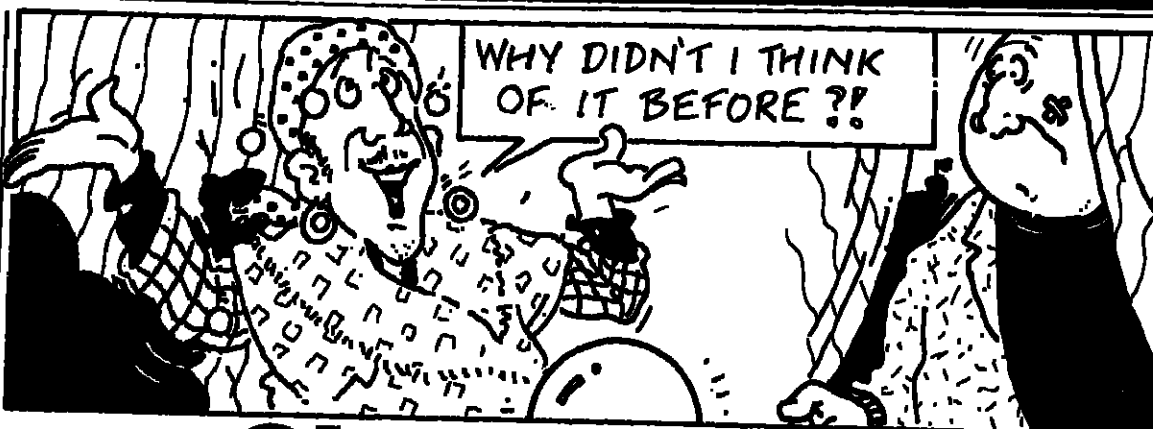
The producer and his film crew of three become such regular visitors to the school in the course of the year that children and staff rapidly lost all self-consciousness with the filming process, helped by keeping equipment to a minimum: a microphone and one 16mm camera operated, except for one occasion (a PTA meeting), in natural light.

The result is a delightfully natural, "fly-on-the-wall" view of young children at school. Regular events such as hair inspections, medical tests and the annual visit of the photographer are threaded into the film along with the daily work of education, backed by a soundtrack which very smoothly mixes actual dialogue, a recorded commentary and the voices of the teachers talking about their ideas and teaching methods.

The programmes strike a good balance between filming work in the classroom and beyond it: the latter making particularly interesting viewing because of the "learning is doing" philosophy of the headmaster, Ian Jones, and his staff. A working visit to a Rural Study Centre in the Forest of Dean (programme one), a fortnight's residential study visit to a village in Macedonia for the top juniors (programme two) and a Christmas project on "Postage Stamps" (programme three) show vividly how this kind of project work can be a powerful catalyst to learning. The television camera captures more eloquently than words the sheer adventure of education expressed in the sometimes wondering, sometimes excited, sometimes deeply concentrating faces of the children engaged in these projects.

Though the programmes show little that's not familiar to primary school teachers they should be heartened by the sensitive presentation of their job, and the favourable impression which is left of this particular school is, explains the producer, "purely the way it turned out". We chose to film this school mainly because the idea of the federation offered an interesting new angle to explore but as we progressed more deeply into the life of the school we became very aware of the quality of the work being done there.

Ain't FitzGerald



Sing and play

Andrew Pegg reviews some of the current music series on BBC Radio

SCHOOLS RADIO
Singing Together
Wednesdays 11.05-11.25
Music Makers
Mondays 11.00-11.20
Listening to Music 2
Mondays 2.40-3.00
Radio 4 VHF

The current programmes in these well-established series are new. *Singing Together* (aimed at 9 to 12-year-olds) immediately slips into a well-oiled, efficient routine which can leave even the unfamiliar adult behind in concentration lapses for a second. One problem (also apparent in *Music Makers*) is the difficulty in coordinating attention to the programme with attention to the text. Page numbers in the pupils' books, for instance, are in small print and often difficult to spot when moving from one song to another, rarely in consecutive order. No doubt the answer is for the teacher to use recordings in class and stop the machine at appropriate points.

Perhaps more serious is the somewhat congested layout of the material in *Singing Together* and *Music Makers* which is obviously designed to make the booklets visually attractive while maintaining clarity. Both are printed in two colours and both include illustrations - comic-strip cartoons for *Music Makers* and water colours for *Singing Together*. Inevitably, the illustrations are more attractive than the music and text, which could be a disadvantage when listening to the broadcasts whose rehearsal formats require rapid identification of sections of music.

The music itself is on single staves with words printed below and guitar chords above. *Singing Together* also incorporates tonic sol-fa notation, while *Music Makers* includes a single-line percussion score. Unfortunately the colour combination used for *Sing-*

ing Together (dull green and bright blue) wrongly highlights titles and non-singing lines (in blue) at the expense of the melodies.

The teachers' book for *Singing Together* contains all songs introduced in the whole year (30 in all) with piano accompaniments, plus a number of single-stave rounds. The repertoire is mostly well-known ("Skye Boat Song", "Casey Jones", "Bold Grenadier", "Yellow Bird") but carefully chosen in terms of geographical origin, expressive content and pitch range. Arrangements are stylish without being fussy; many incorporate melody instrument part which is used in the broadcasts to feature a selection of different instruments - violin, trumpet, oboe, trombone, flute, French horn, recorders and cello.

The broadcasts utilize a good school choir and adult soloist to lead the singing. The brisk, business-like pace adopted by the presenter, rhythm in slow numbers. Piano accompaniment is exuberant though not always supportive, lacking as it does a strong bass line.

The *Music Makers* was originally planned on a project basis. Last term this was *Swashbuckling for Beginners*, a pirate story combining *Treasure Island* and *Robinson Crusoe* - or possibly *The Navy Lark* and *Beyond our Ken*, since its humorous ancestor. Perhaps a lot of the fast-moving verbal punning would be lost on the 10 to 12-year-olds the series is intended for, though the music and characterization should more than make up.

Most broadcasts are straightforward rehearsals of selected passages. Children are required to sing and play various percussion parts which would require the teacher to do some pre-broadcast organizing. Curiously, the teachers' piano score includes neither percussion parts nor guitar chords. In the final version, songs are inter-

persed between passages of dialogue (nowhere printed in any of the published support material, thus making a "self-help" performance well-nigh impossible) and the accompaniment, tingled up with added synthesizers.

There is some attempt at introducing related sea-inspired music, though it sits rather uneasily beside the controlled anarchy of the main story. This term, Hutchings and Ward have turned their attention to the world of the microchip, in a piece entitled *Crossed Circuits*.

Music Projects 2 is aimed at the slightly older range of 13 to 16-year-olds. More obviously instructional, the programmes are designed around a documentary format and are intended as support sources - initiating, background or follow-up - for more extensive class or individual project work. The eight projects this term are spread over 10 broadcasts and cover a wide range of topics: Jamaican Music, Musical Arranging, Folk Music, Composing to a System, The String Quartet, Henry Purcell, John Philip Sousa and a discussion about pitch and tuning.

Jamaican Music is well researched by Michael Burnett and lucidly presented, though more extensive use of the musician contributors might have led us more deeply into the music. The first of three programmes on folk music was a successful evocation of the atmosphere of the Sidmouth Folk Festival, with the "vox pop" interview technique used to good effect. Listening to both programmes consecutively, however, one was struck by the curious detached quality of the English folk revival compared to the vital social significance of reggae.

The teachers' notes consist of a few points of departure for discussion and lists of books and records. The pupils' notes are contained on a fold-out A1-size poster containing some text and photomontages on each topic.

These three effects must influence any future initial training. In the effects of new technology on existing subjects, on the teaching and learning process, and on the curriculum and compulsory education as a whole. The Microelectronics Education Programme has been successfully running in-service courses for teachers in their schools of thousands. But no similar model, or examples of good practice, yet exist for initial training. The Department of Industry recently donated £100,000 worth of computer hardware to some training institutions who offered, or claimed to offer, a "20-hour awareness course" to all their students.

Notably, in teacher-training, seems quite rare about how these 20 hours should be occupied. But, more importantly, the concept of a separate "20-hour unit" within an initial training course is clearly a mistaken one. Partly because the impact of new technology should be considered throughout the curriculum of a training course: professional studies, method work, personal experience and partly because awareness of new technology should be an effect on curriculum choice and delivery, not the reason for it.

How will this affect the next acronym, ITT, Initial Teacher Training? This "new technology" will impinge upon each student in three ways: first, upon the teaching of his or her own subject as it exists already; second, upon the content and process of the subject itself (information technology will permeate and affect each part of the curriculum, rather than forming a separate curriculum subject in its own right); and finally, more widely, upon the school curriculum and even the business of education itself. What skills will be most relevant, what knowledge will be of most worth?

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Stirring stuff

CHILDREN'S TELEVISION
Moonfleet
BBC1, Wednesday 5.10pm.

Let's hear it for the BBC! The TV columns of almost every newspaper have been full of lamentation recently: the *Thorn Birds* have landed with a vengeance and there is no health in the Corporation, if the pundits are to be believed. Happily they are not. Though hardly any other paper will even notice (because "it's only for kids"), the BBC has come up with another winner. It's called *Moonfleet* and it goes out at 5.10pm on Wednesday.

Written in 1898, J Meade Falkner's tale of West Country smuggling and adventure has often been rather sniffily dismissed as sub-Stevensian, a sort of land-locked *Treasure Island*. True, there is no parrot and the traditional Jim-laddery is strictly rationed, but the book's generous quota of fights, storms and skulduggery makes for wonderful television. (This is in fact the second version the BBC have done - the long-forgotten first was made, in the words of one producer, "in the old black-and-white days".)

Entirely filmed on location in Dorset, the six-part serial is stunning to watch. A succession of beautiful land- and seascapes form the background to the outdoor scenes, while every foreground detail is meticulously correct. Director Colin Cant has recreated the 1750s as completely as he did the 1940s for *The Machine Gunners* a couple of years ago. And quite right too. Far from skipping (because "it's only for kids") BBC children's drama has always been every bit as good as the best of its adult output, with producers altruistically aware that drama is a part of education and pragmatically sensitive to the idea that today's children are tomorrow's voters - and licence-payers - of tomorrow.

Nineteen-year-old Adam Godley has landed the leading role of John Trenchard, and plays him with just the right degree of restraint. He's hardly a prig, but neither John nor his sermon-reading aunt, Miss Arnold (Hilary Mason), would really have approved of Stevenson's Jim Hawkins: far too rough a lad by half, they'd have said. Nevertheless, our John is certainly no wet. It's his midnight exploration of the Mohnue vault in Moonfleet church which starts off the story.

There are many judges in this world, but precious little justice," he confides to Grace Musker in the first episode. That's about as sanctimonious as he gets, for by the end of the second he has discovered just how little justice there is. Caught up with Elzevir Block and his cronies from the "Why Not?" taverns who have been using the Mohnue vault for purposes of their own, he is on the run, a wanted man at 15.

Stirring stuff... the Redcoat ambush on the beach and the final, climactic storm scene will linger long in the memory - and perhaps prompt a new generation of readers to pick up one of the language's classic yarns. Clearly BBC Publications hope so. In partnership with Knight Books, they have republished *Moonfleet* (£1.50 paperback, £5.50 hardback library edition). New viewers start here.

Hugh David

Continuing education

THE ALVEY REPORT
(Saturday 09.45, BBC2)
A 60-minute edited version of three OU microtechnology programmes from last year is offered as a maths special.

NURSING EXTRA
(Monday 23.00, VHF4)
A series to help nursing staff keep up to date and concentrate on certain areas not covered deeply in their initial training.

LANGUAGE FOR LIFE
(Wednesday 12.55, BBC2)
Aimed at teachers and parents in ethnic minority communities, this programme is shown in Bangla, Punjabi and Italian with English subtitles.

and see how weather forecasting is carried out worldwide.

SOCIAL STUDIES: TEENAGE PLAYS
(Wed 00.30, Thurs, Fri 00.30, VHF4)
A series to stimulate thought and discussion among teenagers. The recordings, made before a school audience, are followed by question and answer sessions with the actors.

ENGLISH FILE
(Friday 14.30, BBC2)
Author Patrick Dondy takes a group of London children to Cookham village to encourage their interest in writing. Workshop sessions demonstrate how fragmentary ideas can be turned into stories.

INTRODUCING GEOGRAPHY
(Wednesday 14.15, VHF4)
Why does the rest of Europe get our weather? What local conditions influence the weather there? 10 to 12-year-olds find out the answers to these questions.

GENERAL STUDIES
(Mon 11.42, Wed 11.35, BBC2)
A new programme in the "Genetics and Society" series. "The Bugs Business" examines whether biotechnology is still a growth area.

LIFETIME
(Monday-Wednesday 00.30, VHF4)
A unit specially related to the Schools Council Health Education Project, this documentary-style programme for 13 to 17-year-olds presents interviews with people on getting married young, one-parent families and old age.

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(Mon 11.22, Thurs 9.42, ITV)
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EXTRA

Language extensions

Chris Schenk on micros and language development in the primary school

It is always difficult, and usually counter-productive, to separate one curriculum area from another in the primary school. With language work, no attempt should even be made to do this, for it is not a curriculum area but a medium of expression which pervades all aspects of primary school life both in the classroom and the playground. The discussion here, therefore, is not confined to a consideration of "language" programs but concentrates on the implications for language development of the use of micros in the primary school across the curriculum.

A child needs to use a restricted and formal code in order to communicate with a computer. Most programs for primary schools are written in such a way that the language appearing on the screen is friendly and a close approximation to a natural language. However, it is important to make the child aware that present-day computers are not skilled communicators and that they can only cope with a small subset of a human language.

A program that starts with the question, "Do you want to see the instructions?" is unlikely to respond to the answer, "Well, that wouldn't be a bad idea" - still less to a nod or a shrug of the shoulders. A realization of the restrictive nature of communication with machines can lead a child on to an appreciation of the complexity of human communication with its nuances, gestures and innuendoes.

One of the most striking aspects of the use of the computer in the primary classroom is the amount of talk that is generated. This is common to a whole range of programs, although the quality

of the children's talk will differ greatly according to the programs used. Undoubtedly, some programs have the power to generate purposeful discussion that leads to joint decision making, and enhances the children's ability to think clearly, express themselves effectively and to listen and take account of each other's views. But these skills of oracy will only be practised if the computer is used by groups of children - and occasionally to stimulate whole class discussions. The times when a computer is best used by a single child are few, for in that situation a whole range of opportunities for language development will be missed.

For children for whom English is not a first language, computer programs could be useful in helping to develop and extend both their written and spoken English. However, in view of recent research about the importance of mother tongue instruction (1), it would be a pity if all computer programs were available only in versions which used English on the screen.

There would be certain technical problems to overcome in using different scripts, and alternative input devices would have to be used for languages that do not have Roman letters. But once these problems are solved, "translating" a program is much cheaper than translating a book. Already a number of programs are available in Welsh versions. They should also be made available for other language groups.

There are many different types of programs which have possibilities for enhancing language work in the primary classroom, and there are also

programs which do not fit neatly into any pigeon-hole. The categories that follow should be regarded as neither mutually exclusive nor jointly exhaustive.

Drill and practice

Because these programs are so easy to write, large numbers of them have flooded the market, although it is not always obvious that they do anything which cannot be done equally well by other means. Many of these programs test language skills such as spelling, punctuation or meanings of words. However, it is much more difficult to write programs which accept all correct answers and reject all incorrect ones in the complex domain of a natural language, than it is with respect to the precise rules which govern elementary arithmetic. For distributed nationally as part of the Microprimer series, invites a child to key in a word that starts with "den" and means "something to do with teeth". If a child responds with "dentist" rather than "dentul", the word the programmer expected, the error message comes up: "Dentist is spelt badly".

At best such programs test rather than teach; at worst some will penalise children for ingenuity and unorthodoxy.

However, when children are given the opportunity to construct their own electronic work-cards, a great deal of useful language work can take place. *Quiz* and *Quiz*, for example, allow children to create and use multi-choice tests on any subject. Variants such as *Create and Guess* result in a guessing game with a series of clues. Many of these children's efforts will be with *Brickup*, fail to acknowledge all valid answers, and some will certainly contain false information!

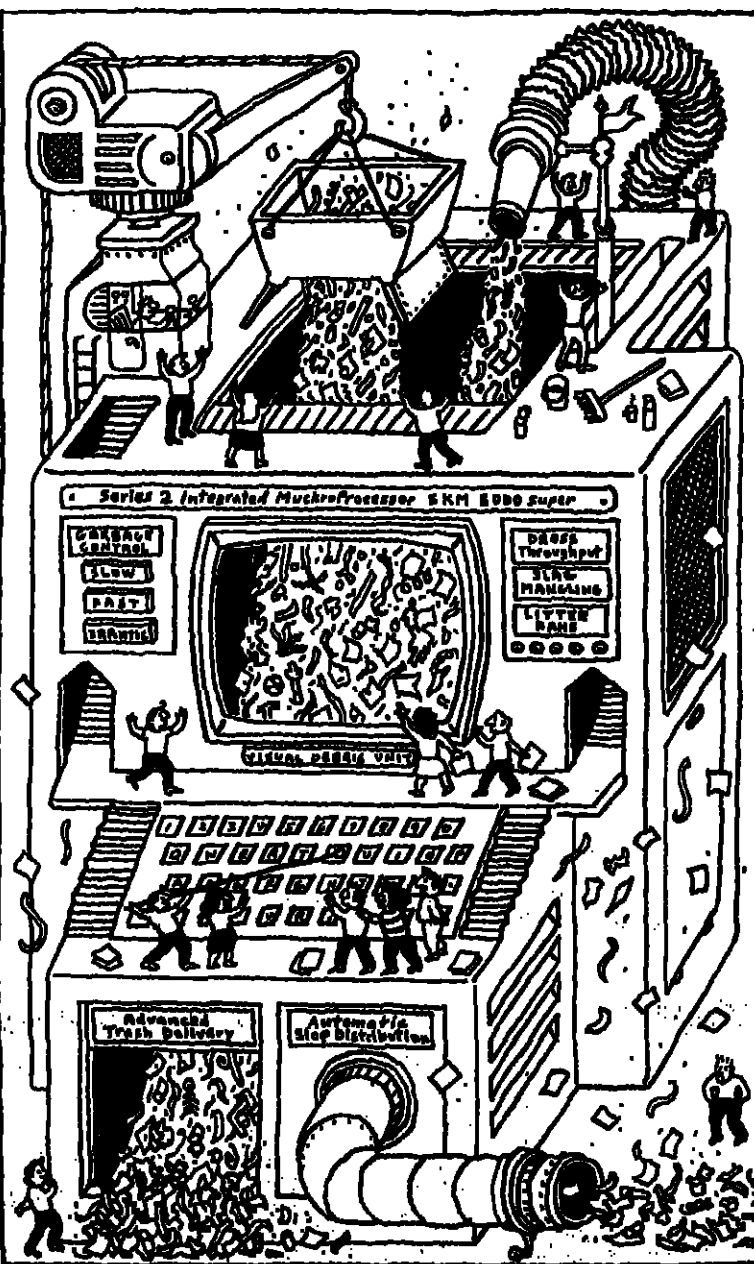
But because they have created the quizzes for themselves, the children can learn some important lessons from the experience. They can be led to an appreciation of the complexity of language. They will also realize that the computer is remarkably stupid and will regurgitate whatever has been put in. This is sometimes known as the First Law of Computing: "Garbage in, garbage out."

Some carefully designed drill and practice programs, with subtle error trapping and with remedial loops, could be effective in helping children with specific language difficulties. But they will only be worthwhile if used in conjunction with a sophisticated diagnostic approach to learning problems. In such cases, it is essential that the program is exactly right for the individual child, to help with a difficulty that has previously been pinpointed, such as sequencing or letter discrimination. This may be one of the rare occasions on which computers are best used, with a single child, and the enormous patience of a machine can be useful.

Information retrieval

Computers are particularly good at rapid manipulation of large amounts of data, and this form of electronic record keeping is becoming an increasingly important part of the way we live. It is, therefore, vital that primary children are made aware of the advantages and the dangers of information retrieval using microelectronics. Children should be encouraged to create their own data files, and the fact that some of these files contain errors, and information that rapidly becomes out of date, should be used to point out the dangers of too great a reliance upon the accuracy of electronic information. Gathering information about each other can also lead to opportunities for valuable discussion about other people's privacy and personalities.

As well as constructing data files of their own, the interrogation of ready-made data-bases can also be valuable. Fictional data-bases concerning characters involved in a mysterious disappearance can provide an imagination for creative writing and for dramatics and role-play.



First law of computing: garbage in garbage out

data. Historical, geographical and scientific information can also be used to develop the children's skills in interpretation and analysis.

Programs like *Facsimile* or *Inform* provide a good introduction to information retrieval, but the full power of the computer only becomes apparent when large data-files are used. Some would argue that effective manipulation of data is only possible with a disc system, and certainly a printer opens up a range of work away from the keyboard.

A program like *Quest* enables children to interrogate large data-files with considerable speed. The fact that it is necessary for the children to learn a vocabulary of code words in order to operate *Quest* may, however, deter teachers from using it. This would be a pity since the logical thought involved in understanding and making use of this codes is valuable in itself, and so is the appreciation of the need for precision.

Information retrieval from distant sources, through radio waves like *Teletext*, or along telephone lines like *Proxi*, are rapidly becoming important methods of communication. A program like *Edgar*, which provides a way for children to create pages of data that look like *CeeFax*, reinforces the message that all electronic data is constructed by human beings and is only as reliable as the people responsible for gathering it.

Logical thinking

A number of programs allow children to present information within a logical structure which can require complex judgement in the use of language. *Seek*, *Seek*, *Seek*, *Seek*, and *Try* are knowledge-based programs which allow children to present information in a logical structure which can require complex judgement in the use of language.

only admit the answers "yes" or "no". *Animal* is a good introduction to this way of thinking, and leads to careful use of language. For example, the program might well ask a child to type in a question that distinguishes between an elephant and a mouse. The question "Is the animal big?" seems clear and unambiguous, but it may later have to be answered in connexion with a cow, a fox or a dog. Many children will be led to the realization that "big" is a relative term, and that a more precise and absolute question needs to be substituted.

However, *Animal* can only be used with one type of object unless the program itself is adapted. *Seek* and other programs like it can be applied to any set of objects whether they are mathematical shapes, historical characters, geographical locations or chemical powders. The same binary structure can also be used to create a branched story in which the reader decides whether, for example, to go into a cave or not.

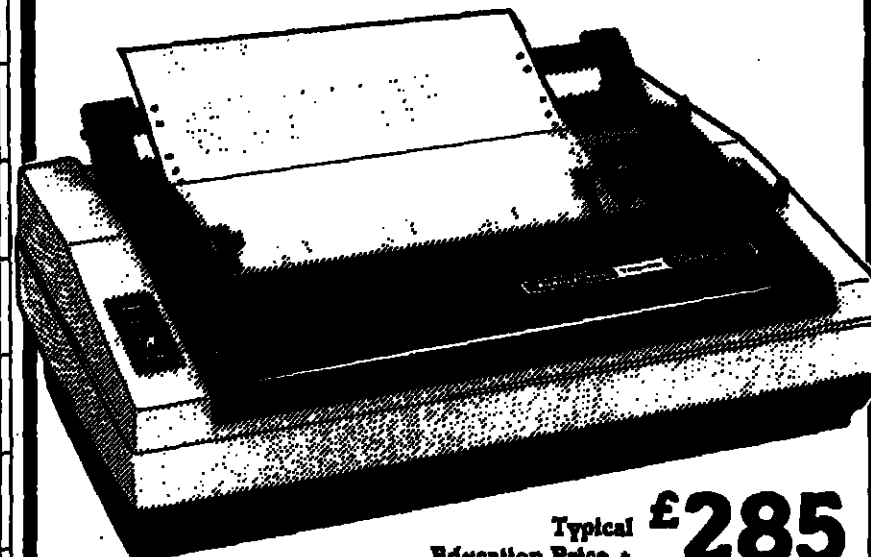
Searching games such as *Hunt the Thimble* or *Slyfox* also use language within a logical structure. *Scene* allows children to create new scenarios for *Slyfox* and the logical structure underlying the program becomes explicit.

LOGO

LOGO is a powerful tool that encourages children to use language in a logical and structured way. It is a full computer language that can be used for programming at any level. However, it is specifically designed to have educational uses and there are corners of it which are easily accessible to young children. The basic known as these, is little graphics, a series of commands which can be used to create

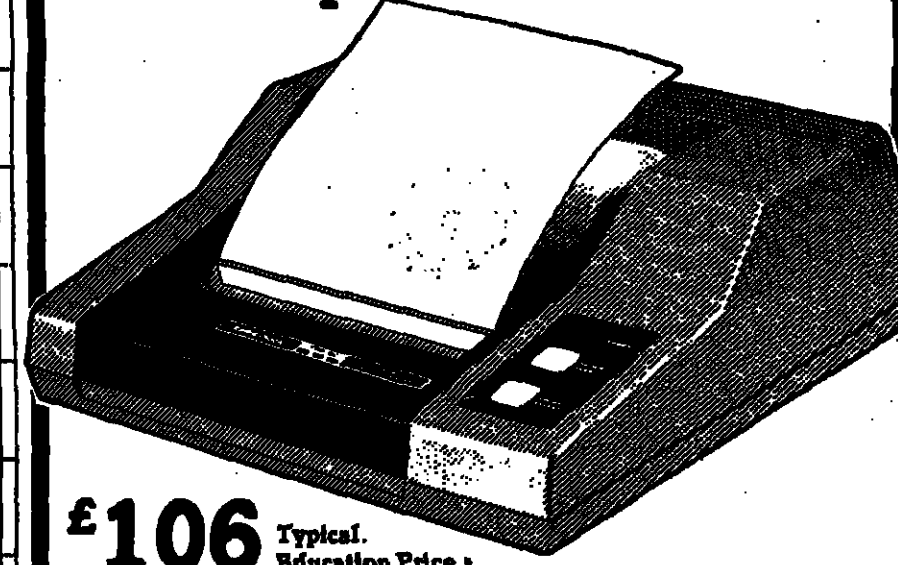
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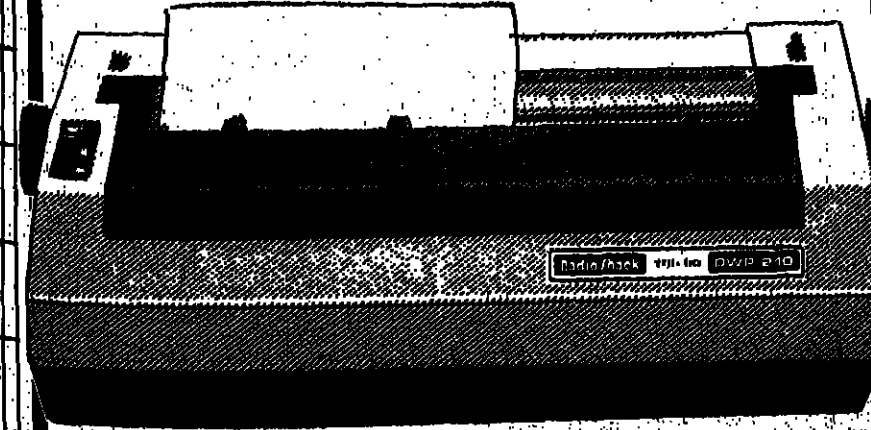
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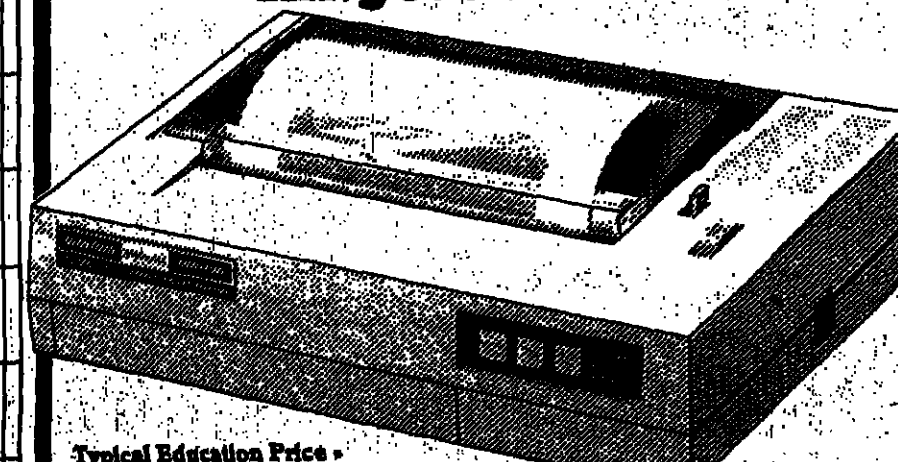
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EXTRA

Language extensions

continued

trial an electronic robot, called a turtle, on the floor, or a screen-turtle, or arrow, on the screen.

From the point of view of language development, the interesting feature of Logo is that it is extendable. Using only a small number of primitive commands such as Forward, Left, Right and Repeat, children can "teach" the computer the meaning of new words, such as Square, Arc or Line. New words can be used in the definition of further words. So, for example, the word House might be defined in terms of Square and Triangle. By assisting in the language development of the computer itself, the child not only has the experience of being firmly in charge of the computer, but also explores the interrelationships between the meanings of words.

A child can choose any name to describe a new procedure that is being taught to the computer. Since Logo allows definitions to be edited and changed, this results in a process in which definitions are gradually refined - or, in the computer jargon, in which programs are debugged.

Turtle graphics in programs like Dart or Arrow can be preceded by the use of Histrak, or by the use of programs such as Crash or Walk. The world of the turtle is mathematical and demands precise language. Logo, using the same cumulative structure of definitions, could also be used to explore other worlds, using other types of language, but its fuller uses with primary children is not widespread yet. (On page 47 Richard Noss discusses the potential of Logo.)

Adventure games and simulations

The exploration of another world, whether it is imaginary or an approximation to a real situation, can take

place through the computer and can result in spoken and written languages of high quality. Adventure games allow an investigation of an imaginary landscape, often involving the performance of specific tasks and the discovery of a set of rules of behaviour of the inhabitants of a micro-world. Many games of this type, like *Eldorado Gold*, *Space* and *Granny's Garden*, are accessible to primary school children and have a valuable place in the classroom. Some, like *Tombs of Arkenstone*, also have the facility for children to design adventures of their own, changing names and places, but retaining the same logical structure.

Simulations, which present a computer model of a real situation, can also give rise to classroom activities that enhance language development. Simulation programs should be seen, not as an alternative to first-hand experiences, but as a way of introducing children to activities that are too dangerous, too expensive or too time-consuming to take place within the school curriculum. In *Mary Rose*, children act first as navigators, then as deep-sea divers and finally as archaeologists in piecing together the remains of Henry VIII's flagship from the bed of the Solent. In *Suburban Fox*, children play the part of a fox, learning to survive in a hostile world of human beings and motor cars. The exploration of another creature's world can result in a deepening empathy, and can lead to imaginative and evocative use of language on a par with that which arises out of exciting first-hand experiences.

Generative programs and language patterns

Computers can generate random combinations of letters or words with great speed. A computer can easily be programmed to give all possible anagrams of a particular word, or all possible combinations of a particular set of words. It takes considerably more skill to program the computer to give only sensible anagrams, or only meaningful sentences.

Generative programs can give chil-

dren valuable insights into the structure of language and into levels of grammaticality. A program like *Wordplay* asks children to type in lists of nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs, and also to specify possible phrase structures in terms of these categories. The computer then randomly generates a "poem" from the word lists, according to the structure specifications. It is not easy to organize these lists in such a way as to avoid nonsense and the text reveals the complexity of the generative grammar of a natural language. The "poems" are not great literature - but they are often amusing, and the whole process gives a purpose to the introduction of grammatical categories.

Stories can also be randomly generated from lists of sentences or phrases. The result will often be weird and disconnected, and careful analysis of the structure of stories is necessary before it is possible to produce a reasonable narrative. However, the unusual nature of some of the combinations can act as a stimulus to further imaginative writing, as in *Storyline*. In this program, phrases are randomly combined to produce scenarios that may be a starting point for creative writing, such as "Three old people, playing cards at the bottom of a mine-shaft..." or "A busy police officer, running fast in the direction of the railway station..."

In other programs, such as *Monster* and *Giant* the computer appears to have a conversation with the children operating it. By asking questions and using the children's answers in further questions and remarks, a description of an imaginary monster or giant is built up. Children could be encouraged to speculate about how a computer can give the impression of holding a rational conversation, without understanding the meanings of any of the words.

Another interesting way to alert children to language structures is through a group of programs called *Tray*. This starts with the idea that reading a complicated text is like developing a photograph in a photographer's tray: parts of it will come into focus first and it will be some time

before the text can be seen as a coherent whole.

The programs might be described as the ultimate in cloze procedure. In some versions, all that can be seen of the text to begin with are the punctuation marks. In other versions, there are blanks to represent each letter. Because so little graphical information is given, predictions are made, as more text is revealed, based on semantic, syntactic and stylistic cues. Adults and children are often surprised at how little graphical information is necessary to make intelligent and successful predictions. It reveals the true nature of reading: not barking at print, but playing a psycho-linguistic guessing game.

Wordprocessing

Because the act of writing is itself so laborious to many primary school children, the further skills of editing, re-structuring and improving texts are not often practised. However, the use of a word processor on a micro immediately gives access to re-writing and refining written work with little extra effort. Once a text has been typed in, insertions and deletions can be made at any point, blocks of text can be re-ordered and, however many alterations are made, the finished version can be printed out perfectly.

Processors like *Wordwise* are available on a chip and, once fitted, are relatively simple to use. *Edword* has been developed specifically for educational purposes and it has the advantage that the text which appears on the screen is in exactly the same format as in the print-out. Of course, to get the most out of a wordprocessor it is necessary to have a printer, and a disc drive is extremely useful.

Wordprocessors with built-in dictionaries that automatically check spellings, or built-in thesauruses that suggest alternative words or phrases, are being developed.

In wordprocessing activities, the conventional keyboard can be a barrier for children with physical handicaps or for young children whose

reading is largely done through whole word recognition. With different input devices this barrier can be overcome. The full facilities of wordprocessing can be made available to the severely disabled, operated entirely by a single switch. Young children can begin to use wordprocessing techniques, through a concept keyboard with an overlay consisting of whole words.

It is also possible for primary children to compose text through a device called the Microwriter. A small scale investigation (2) into its use in primary schools has been carried out, with favourable results, although it will be some time before it is used widely enough for its implications to be properly assessed.

Talking, listening, reading and writing are all integral parts of the way in which young children learn. Primary classrooms should be organized in such a way that the use and development of spoken and written language is always a vital component of the learning process. Among the many stimuluses to language development in a busy classroom, the computer, equipped with interesting and challenging software, has a valuable place.

One of the conclusions of the Bullock report is that "The surest means by which children are enabled to master their mother tongue is by exploiting the process of discovery through language in all its uses." (3) Effective use of the computer can provide a powerful way to exploit this discovery process that is the key to the development both of language and of learning.

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(1) *Supporting Children's Bilingualism*, (1983), David Houlton and Richard Willey, Schools' Council/Longmans.
(2) "Put it in Writing", Peter Wheeler, article in the *Times Educational Supplement*, 16.9.83.
(3) *A Language for Life* (1975) Report of the Bullock Committee. HMSO.

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Pressure of numbers

R W Strong on the need to release mathematics teachers from the main responsibility for teaching about computers

Traditionally, computing has been associated with mathematics. Mathematics degrees frequently contain an element of computing and computing degrees are associated with mathematics. It therefore follows that computing in schools, in whatever form it has taken place, has been predominantly taught by mathematics teachers. Because of their involvement, and at times personal interest in this area, they have been looked upon as the experts in educational computing.

Microtechnology, with the help of Government financial backing, is within the purchasing power of individual schools. Political pressure and the social implications of microtechnology have placed pressures on schools, which are being forced to react, often without knowing the educational reasons for initiatives.

In the short term there is a need to acquaint most people with the reasons: what it is, how to switch it on and communicate with it; how to distinguish between a trivial and a more complex difficulty which inevitably will arise.

We must also recognise that the microcomputer is as much a cross-curricular resource as reprographic and audio visual machinery. The educational merit is not in the resource itself but in how it is used in the educational process.

In secondary schools many mathematics teachers are spending a great deal of time involved with microcomputers. They are writing software for the enhancement of mathematics teaching; learning about the machine to use in their mathematics classrooms; teaching Computer Studies; helping other staff in their own time; developing and/or teaching Computer Awareness courses; running computer clubs; and using a computer for school administration.

With the exceptions of writing software for the enhancement of mathematical education and learning about the machine, the time being spent on these activities is now beginning to reflect adversely on the quality of work that is taking place in mathematics classrooms. Mathematics teachers are being taken out of mathematics teaching (and at times being replaced by teachers of other disciplines to cover the mathematics timetable). They are also spending considerable amounts of time helping other staff at the expense of their own teaching preparation, or dealing with time-consuming technical problems. The overall effect of such activities is a deterioration in the quality of mathematics in the classroom.

There is a pressing need to remove from mathematics teachers responsibility for the wider issues in computer, education and microtechnology development in schools. The following are some suggestions as to how this might be done.

Schools have planned their activities to offer anything from none to all of the following: Computer Studies taught as an option and frequently by the mathematics department; Computer Awareness again frequently taught by the mathematics department; computer microtechnology development within subjects, and computer clubs run during lunch times after school.

Software varies from a room with 15 microcomputers to a school with a single computer. Software is very limited, especially mathematical, with few materials to support it.

Project (MEP) has categorized its activities as follows: computer based learning, using the machines to enhance the teaching in subject disciplines; knowledge of the computer; electronics and control; and information systems; electronic office/key-board skills/word processors.

It has frequently been considered the work of the mathematics teacher to represent all these areas through computer studies or computer awareness courses, if such activities existed in schools anyway. We are now moving into an era whereby each of the areas needs its own kind of expertise. It is no longer reasonable for a mathematics/computer studies teacher to tell children about each area of microtechnology. It is far better for children to be actively involved in using microtechnology when it occurs in an applied situation in a particular subject discipline.

So what educational experiences shall schools provide? Computer Studies to date has been taught unimaginatively by mathematics teachers (through little fault of their own), conforming to a syllabus which has been rigid, in the main for the teacher and the pupil. Furthermore, it has little currency with FE, employers or universities.

Computer Awareness is in a similar category only without an examination

at the end. The educational value is questionable but the school can say every child has the word "computing" on his or her timetable.

With both Computer Studies and Computer Awareness dismissed so is most of the current school activity. Instead there is a need to develop a whole school policy to computing and build on the strengths of areas where the technology can be used most naturally.

The implications for my arguments in terms of the school curriculum are as follows:

● Subject disciplines should be encouraged to use the machine to enhance their teaching and improve the learning situation. Such an approach requires software to be built into a teaching scheme and subject teachers must actively seek to experiment with microcomputers.

● Electronics and Control should be the responsibility of the science and CDT departments. They have the expertise, apparatus and genuine applications for such workshop practice.

● There is a whole area of keyboard skills/word processing/electronic information/filing and data processing where educational value and social implications need to be considered. It is questionable if the mathematics teacher/computer education teacher is

the best person to teach such issues when they probably cannot type and have no training or experience of - say - a commercial filing system. Perhaps the school should be appointing a teacher in this area rather than Computer Studies.

● One remaining area of computer education is learning to "program". An HMI Discussion Paper suggests it should be taught by mathematicians in mathematics lessons. Since many computer uses are based on mathematical models, perhaps mathematics teachers should accept that task BUT do all children need to write programs and indeed are they capable of it?

To react to the above ideas schools would need a computer policy committee, perhaps chaired by the Deputy Head (Curriculum) whose tasks it would be to ensure that all pupils have a realistic range of microtechnology experiences which has educational and training value. The Deputy Head need have no real technology experience but would act as a coordinator to ensure that the various curricular areas conscientiously planned their contribution to technological awareness for children. The approach would help schools to determine their staffing needs to meet their curricular requirements, and help them to justify the purchase of hardware to meet their educational objectives.



Most of all there is a need for a whole school policy to microtechnology, rather than just thinking of the microcomputer; each curricular area should contribute its own expertise. Such a policy would remove the onus from the mathematics department.

R W Strong is County Inspector for Mathematics for Somerset.

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1. *Journal of Management Studies*, 1997, 34, 1, 1-14.

EXTRA

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HARMONIC DUO

Music & Computers - Colin Wells reports on a thriving partnership

What has caused the current upsurge of interest and growth of development in the use of microcomputers in music in United Kingdom schools? It is almost certainly due to some combination of the following four significant occurrences:

● The development of moderately cheap purpose-built electronic music devices, such as those produced by Casio, Yamaha, Roland and Korg, which started appearing around 1981. These awakened a general interest in technology amongst music teachers and advisers.

● The development of microcomputer systems with reasonable built-in sound facilities, such as Atari 800, BBC and Commodore 64, from early 1982. Teachers began to see the potential of their readily available sound facilities for music.

● The Government's programme of offering half-price microcomputers to primary and secondary schools in the period 1981-1984. Of the melismas on offer to these schools, by far the most significant in terms of sound facilities was the BBC, and it is perhaps fortuitous for music education, therefore, that this machine was chosen by a large proportion of schools.

● The rapid expansion of cheap home computers resulting in a large growth of computerized music devices at home, and bringing microcomputers such as Sinclair's ZX81 and Spectrum, and VIC 20 into consideration as well as those mentioned above.

The probable overall effect of these four things is that the most significant impact on music education in UK schools will be through the BBC computer, which is already in a very large number of primary and secondary schools, and through purpose-built electronic devices, with perhaps some pressure being exerted by cheaper versions such as the Sinclair Spectrum through the large home market. This is despite the fact that there is undoubtedly more music education material, both software and additional specialized hardware, available for the Apple micro than for any other microcomputer - albeit mainly American in origin.

The sound facilities of the BBC microcomputer are produced by a Texas Instruments sound chip (SN 74689) which provides four channels of sound; three tunable to notes in a five-octave range in quarter semitone steps, and the fourth generating 'noise'. Basically this means that three-part music, with an optional percussion or rhythm track, can be played.

A sound instruction is available, in the built-in BASIC language, which specifies the required sound channel, volume, pitch and duration. The fundamental tone produced by the chip is a not very exciting "sawtooth" waveform and this cannot be altered. However, the envelope, or "shape" of each note can be specified using the ENVELOPE instruction provided. This allows selection of the rates of attack, decay, sustain and release of the notes. For example a fast attack could make the note sound more percussive and piano-like, whereas a slow attack could make the note smoother to start and perhaps more like a violin.

Having this level of sound facilities available, together with high resolution colour graphics and text, provides the basic requirements for a large number of music education programs.

The main attraction of microcomputers for music education is the ease of loading and saving programs and hence music; the interactive nature of communications between the user and the program in the machine and the appropriate intermingling and use of sound, graphics, colour, animation and text.

A major need for such machines, (in addition to much better quality and range of sounds) is for an easy method of entering music - as the QWERTY keyboard cannot be considered to be the world's best designed keyboard!

Electronic keyboards, on the other hand, are obviously purpose-built for music input and for good quality sound output. They are enormously varied, and new models are being produced each month. Some of the capabilities fairly commonly available are: five-octave keyboards; eight-voice polyphony (plays eight notes together); 30+ preset waveform sounds; the ability to create one's own waveform sounds; sequencer/trigger for repeated pattern of notes linked to chords being played; chords defined by pressing single bass notes (for major) or two or more notes for minor or more exotic chords; chords and backing arpeggios which automatically 'follow' the melody line (ie harmonize in some way); storage facilities to remember rhythm or melody and allow additional tracks to be superimposed; modulation facilities; stereo sound output; dumping of melody and accompaniment onto cassette; loading of previously saved tunes and/or preset waveforms, rhythms or tunes from cassette or cartridge.

With synchronized connections easily made to programmable rhythm and percussion generators and/or sequencer devices, a lot of creative music work can be done, with very good quality of sound output. The automatic aspects and built-in "intelligence" of such machines undoubtedly bring a major requirement of music education into the reach of most if not all pupils, ie the need to participate in a satisfactory and pleasing level in performing music.

As always, people will learn more by doing than by learning theory. However, it should be said here that care needs to be taken when using these machines, that pupils do not become so impressed by their complex sounding music performance, produced with little effort on their part, that they shy away from the comparatively slow learning of traditional musical instruments.

For general music education purposes, electronic keyboards and music devices obviously have no graphics and text displays, little or no ability to analyse and edit music, and very limited interaction - things which are all easily available on a microcomputer, at a sophisticated level. The relevance of such electronic devices to a discussion of computers in music is not simply that many of these devices contain purpose-built microprocessors and other complex electronic chips, and so can be thought of as small dedicated computers in their own right, but that this type of device can be directly linked to microcomputers via a MIDI interface, thus providing the best of both machine facilities.

MIDI is short for Musical Instrument Digital Interface, and is an agreed 'world standard' form of communicating between electronic music instruments, synthesizers, rhythm machines etc, and microcomputers. It has been agreed by major manufacturers such as Roland, Yamaha and Korg and most if not all new models currently being designed will have this facility included.

Basically MIDI will allow two or more machines to pass information to each other and so, for example, it would be possible to use an eight-voice polyphonic keyboard to play notes or a complete tune into a microcomputer. This could then be shown on the computer's screen in suitable music notation, edited if necessary and at some later stage sent back to the synthesizer for playback with perhaps different voice or rhythm settings. Thus

MIDI will help to overcome two basic shortcomings of microcomputers at present; firstly the need for an easy piano quality keyboard input for music; and secondly the availability of eight (or more) high quality independent voices with a good selection of tunes.

Of course special system software is needed to control the MIDI interface in addition to using a suitable synthesizer incorporating the MIDI connections, but probably within the next year a large number of reasonably priced (£200-£300) MIDI synthesizers should be on the market with software available for a range of microcomputers including the BBC.

Information about the development of electronic musical instruments, microcomputer music and MIDI interfaces can be found regularly in *Electronics* and

and acquiring skills in associating aural activities with appropriate musical notation. It is these areas of fundamental music skills that are the most obvious for computer support, and it is therefore not surprising that most existing programs are of this nature.

In particular, programs dealing with pitch can cover a range of activities, including aiding the recognition of up and down melodic movements; the development of concepts of higher and lower and the association of pitch with SOLFA notation and hand signs. The association of pitch with abstract or formal music notation on a staff; work with clefs and key signatures; an understanding of musical scales; an understanding of simple transposition and the development of aural memory for a series of pitches or a

or four beats per bar; understanding of aural recognition of comparative length of notes (ie one beat, two beats, half beat etc); understanding and aural recognition of rests; the development of abstract musical notation for different lengths of notes and rests; the introduction of lines and time signatures. There is also the development of aural and notation recognition of rhythmic patterns, the comparison of simple and compound rhythms, both aurally and notation, work with rhythm SOLFA; the comparison of pitch and rhythm elements, both aurally and using music notation.

The use of such programs dealing with music fundamentals, should, of course, be complemented by programs which aid the user in applying the concepts and skills achieved in creative composition, practice listening or musical analysis. For creative composition activities, the main types of program exist: firstly, music editor programs basically designed systems for inputting, manipulating, editing and playing music, and secondly programs written specifically for educational support for creative and compositional work.

Music editors typically allow one more lines of music (pitch and rhythm) to be entered. With present standards for the microcomputers, this usually involves use of the QWERTY keyboard or some movement and selection devices such as joystick controls and light pens, a frequently (as with the BBC micro), if number of parts is limited to two. Obviously this situation will be drastically improved when links to polyphonic keyboards become commonly available. The music, which has been entered, may be shown either in some form of "musical shorthand" or in standard musical notation, and this can then be edited, altered or stored as desired.

Playback facilities with control of volume, speed, and choice of tones for each part, are also provided. The music editors' facilities could be compared with those of wordprocessors where text can be entered, manipulated and corrected before final printing. It is also possible to program other computer functions such as automatic highlighting of particular phrases in order to highlight them or change them in some other way. For example, the subject of a three-part fugue could be highlighted in time it occurs by using a different colour, or simply by increasing its volume.

Specific educational programs for assisting with creative composition work can include programs for aiding:

- experimentation with melodic patterns, wholly or partly generated by computer according to given constraints to help determine pleasing rhythms to be determined pleasing and interesting patterns.
- development of an awareness of two notes sound pleasant together, leading to the development of counterpoint.
- development of an awareness of sounds of various chords, and their progressions leading to the development of guidelines for harmonization.
- traditional and experimental rules of forms of harmony.
- the understanding of musical structure and form in organizing and balancing sounds, phrases, keys and sections of composition.
- experimentation with variations of given theme, controlled by the user produced by the computer, eg inversion, reversal of pitch and/or rhythm (transposition).
- investigation into the characteristics

of use of non-traditional sounds within music compositions. As with the editors, this work will be greatly enhanced by links to a good quality sound source and music keyboard. Programs for other areas of music education have been produced, such as to help with instrumental fingering, music terminology and to provide supporting services. These supporting programs include information retrieval packages with files of both textual and aural material; packages which analyse given pieces of music in terms of composer's style, melodic, rhythmic and harmonic patterns used and musical forms involved, and programs to output music notation.

Most of these supporting programs are very limited on microcomputers at present, and are much more effective on large mainframe systems with their faster speeds and much larger storage facilities.

It is certainly true that large numbers of the earlier American music education programs were designed as drill and practice exercises for individual students to work at on their own. However, today the trend is very much towards more open ended programs which allow individual or groups of pupils to experiment, explore and experience aspects of music, with perhaps some guided tasks involved. Whether that being separated from the teacher, programs are now being produced for use by the teacher as a teaching aid, with whole classes or groups, or certainly for use with a teacher present to guide the overall teaching strategy, learning pace, and level of demand.

Such programs have a great deal of potential and are like a resource which the teacher or pupils can call upon to help with particular illustrations, concepts or problems. Programs of this type have the potential of being much more effective than individualized programs, as the teacher, who knows the level and background of his or her pupils intimately, can tailor use to their particular needs. This does, however, raise the question of some form of teacher training being essential to exploiting this material to the full.

The ITMA (Investigations on Teaching with Microcomputers as an Aid) Collaboration is currently researching into the use of microcomputers in music education, in parallel to developing new music programs. One research project is involving eight schools in Plymouth (four primary and four secondary) and two schools in Nottingham.

These schools are being provided with about 50 music programs for the BBC microcomputer for the Spring term 1984, covering a range of music activities and styles of use. Most of the programs are unpublished, and they include draft versions of several of the ITMA programs. Most if not all of them will be assessed by each school using a detailed form, and teachers allowed to plan and use any of the programs with any class in the school, provided they consider it to be educationally useful and appropriate. The mode of use, ie with whole class, large or small group or individual, is also left to the teacher.

A large number of these lessons, when the computer is being used, will be carefully observed, and the observations supplemented by teachers' reports of what and children's work as appropriate. This over the term a large file of information and assessments will be gathered, evaluating fruitful areas of use and positive ways forward, as well as assessing the quality of existing software and where this could be improved.

The teachers involved are also being closely monitored, with detailed questionnaires being given at the start and end of the project.

continued on next page

NEW SOFTWARE FROM BBC PUBLICATIONS

Making the Most of the Micro

Twenty-five exciting programs designed to put the Model B through its paces. They include a subtitle and credits generator; a flying, buzzing bee; and a range of intriguing utilities and projects. The program cassette is accompanied by an informative book by Henry Budgett and Ian Trackman. £12.95

VU Type

This friendly program teaches touch-typing in easy stages, using exercises approved by Pitmans. It makes full use of the Model B's graphics capabilities, and allows you to choose from a wide range of colour and sound options. £16.10

Word Mover

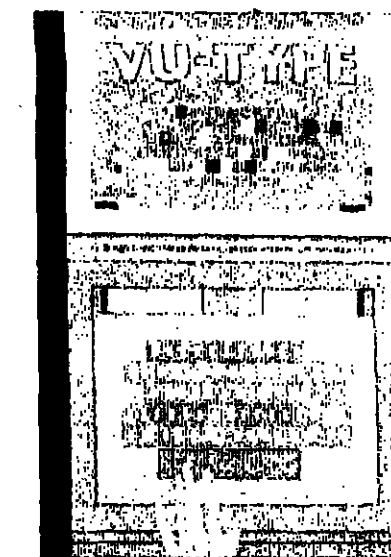
This simple text editor offers many of the basic facilities of a fully fledged word processor, with none of the attendant complications. It is easy to learn, easy to use and contains a wide range of display, editing and printing options. Published September 1984



Music

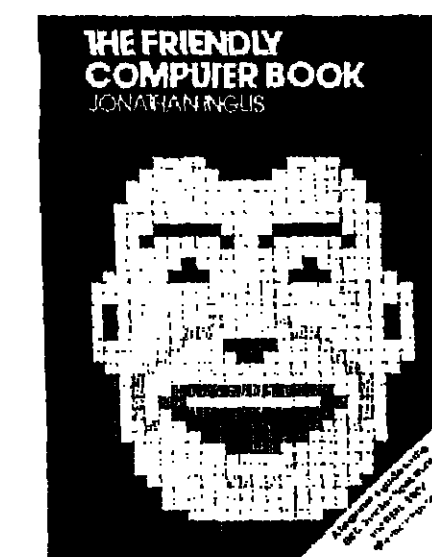
An entertaining program which turns the computer into a simple musical instrument, enabling users to compose, play, edit and save their own tunes. £10.00

An advanced music program in preparation.



Forth

Forth is a remarkable computer language that combines the main features of both a structured high-level language and assembly language. It is very economical with memory space and individual needs. Published September 1984



The Friendly Computer Book

A straightforward introduction for beginners to computing and programming in BASIC. It covers the three machines normally used by primary schools: the BBC, the Sinclair Spectrum and the Research Machines 380 Z. £4.50

Each pack includes a program cassette and an explanatory booklet. All programs are designed for the British Broadcasting Corporation Model B microcomputer with operating system 1.0 onwards. Prices include VAT.

FROM BOOKSELLERS AND MICROCOMPUTER DEALERS

sinclair EDUCATION EXHIBITION

Organised and Promoted by Computer Marketplace
Supported by Sinclair Research Ltd

Central Hall, Westminster, London SW1
Wednesday 28th March 10.00am to 6.00pm
Thursday 29th March 10.00am to 8.00pm
Friday 30th March 10.00am to 5.00pm

The Sinclair Education Exhibition is planned to give all teachers, lecturers and educationalists a unique opportunity to get up to date with the latest developments concerning Sinclair computers. Over 50 leading suppliers as well as Sinclair themselves will be demonstrating hardware, software, peripherals and supplies. All under one easily accessible roof. This is an ideal opportunity to listen to informative talks, try out systems, watch demonstrations and collect literature away from the interruptions of students.

Admission is by ticket only and is limited to educationalists over 16. Very early and civilised booking is essential. A free booklet with tickets but it is also available from Computer Marketplace (Exhibitions) Ltd, 20 Orange Street, London WC2H 7ED. (01-241 4141) or by post.

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20 Orange Street, London WC2H 7ED

Please send me _____ tickets for the
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TSB



Entrance Fee to
non-educationalists
£2
Under 18's not
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THE BACKGROUND

The connection of computers and music is not new. Over 25 years ago early experiments in using large mainframe computers to produce music via special digital to analogue sound production equipment, were carried out by people such as Max Mathews at Bell Telephone Laboratories in New Jersey USA. This music synthesis and composition work using large sophisticated computers has developed into a large scale science and art, with computerized music studios throughout the world.

Some of the best known are at IRCAM in Paris, Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the USA, Utrecht in Holland, and at American universities such as Princeton and Stanford. Annual international computer music conferences are held and current developments are reported in magazines such as *The Computer Music Journal* published by MIT Press. In the United Kingdom, individuals, music groups and university music departments engaged in composition with the aid of computers, have formed a group called Electro-Acoustic Music Association (EMAS), and newsletters are produced regularly.

Using computers specifically for music education started in the late 1960s mainly in American universities, and a large number of programs, particularly dealing with music fundamentals and aural training, have been produced on their large computer systems, including the PLATO systems at Stanford and Delaware. Many of these universities began collaborating in this area of work by forming in 1976 the National Consortium for Computer-Based Music Instruction (NCCBMI). At present high quality music production still remains fundamentally the province of the large mainframe computer system, as this generally requires much faster computing speed and a much larger amount of data storage than is available with microcomputers. However, in the realms of music education, sound output of sufficient quality could be produced for many instructional purposes.

Most of this early microcomputer-based music education material was produced using the Apple microcomputer system, with additional sound-producing hardware, ranging from low-cost (£100 approx) ALF synthesizer boards to velocity sensitive electronic keyboards such as Alphast-

stant or Soundchaser at around £1,000 extra. The extent of use of the microcomputer can be seen by studying the catalogue of about 300 music education programs for this machine, costing of about \$10,000 (US), which was obtained from Denis Moreau in California.

Nearly all this material is designed to instruct individuals in fundamental theory and aural training, though some utility programs for helping with the development of aural memory for a series of pitches or a or four beats per bar; understanding of aural recognition of comparative length of notes (ie one beat, two beats, half beat etc); understanding and aural recognition of rests; the development of abstract musical notation for different lengths of notes and rests; the introduction of lines and time signatures. There is also the development of aural and notation recognition of rhythmic patterns, the comparison of simple and compound rhythms, both aurally and notation, work with rhythm SOLFA; the comparison of pitch and rhythm elements, both aurally and using music notation.

1 Designed and programmed by
Five Ways Software

(67)

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Tel: 01-263 6926 or 272-3981

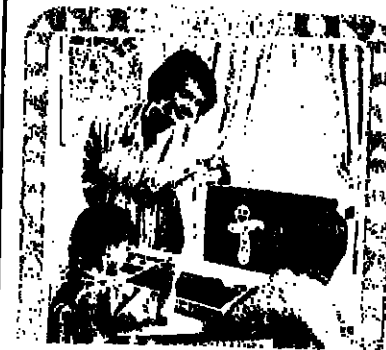
Brainstorm Computer Solutions

the programs are available on disc or cassette.
The programs are attractively packaged in hard-wearing folders.
For further information and details of our inspection copy service contact:
Mrs D. M. Gandy, Bookbinder's Road, Birmingham B21 4BB. Telephone
01-214 1222

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EXTRA

Driller skiller



Mr T Tells the Time
Mr T's Alphabet Games
Mr T's Number Games
Mr T's Measuring Games
Mr T's Money Box
Mr T's Shape Games
Good Housekeeping/Ebury Software
£12.95 each. All for BBC Model B:
48K Spectrum versions available for
Time and Money, and coming for other
computers.

Go into any big WH Smiths, and it's all
too plain that, even if Driller Skiller has
disappeared from the video libraries,
Driller Skiller, the educational computer
nasty, is prominent on high street
shelves. So bluntness should be sent to
Ebury Software and Good House-
keeping for attempting something serious
in the way of programs for
young children and their parents.

Collins Educational, on the other
hand, should be sent straight back to
the drawing board - and fast. Most of
these programs are a disgrace.

Even the most basic editing has not
been done: "halfway" is spelt "haf-
way", and not, by Paddington; the
program to show how to draw numbers
starts the 8 in the middle and draws the
bottom loop first.

Three of the Collins Paddington
packages are labelled as suitable for
pre-school and early learners. Yet they
call for highly sophisticated time-tell-
ing skills, expect children to toss off
cyan and magenta as names for col-
ours, and deliver difficult computation
and counting practice based on tiny
shadowy and flickery blips (at least on

my colour TV). My early learner
rapidly discovered a way of subverting
the screen displays - and took great
pleasure in doing it.

The mainly boring drills and games
are not helped by one or two ambi-
guous questions, some unrecalable
text, some misleading displays, and
some cramped and confusing layout.

Perhaps it isn't surprising that the
publishers have failed to provide any
guidelines for parents as to how these
programs might be used.

The best thing about the packages is
the books, which is not saying a lot:
Time and First Numbers come with
standard infant workbooks and the
Paddington sets each have a routine
little Paddington story, with clear print
and black and white pictures to colour.

The Ebury/Good Housekeeping set
of programs is in a different league
entirely. The programs appear to be
the results of a productive collabora-
tion between experienced infant
teachers and good computer writers.

There is a strong emphasis on giving
children mathematical vocabulary -
bigger, taller, wider, more, less, differ-
ent. The parent's handbooks clearly
explain the point of the programs, and
suggest activities for parents and child-
ren away from the TV screen.

The programs themselves are
thoughtfully designed. Children are
mainly required to use only the space
bar or key. Parents have the option to
turn off the sound. Levels of difficulty
are self-adjusting - unless a parent or
older child wants to change them. The
graphics are clear, chunky and often
engaging. On the rare occasions where
there is text, it is bold and readable,
with keywords highlighted. This is the
"Turbo" style of clarity and practice,
least because it contained the only
program in the whole set that began to
put the computer's capabilities at chil-
dren's disposal. Children can build up
pictures by choosing shapes (the op-
tions are circle, square, equilateral or
right-angle triangle), making them big-
ger or smaller, or (apart from the
circle, which seems to have defeated
the programmers) wider or taller.
Shapes can be moved to any part of the

screen, and coloured.

Four-year-olds enjoyed playing about
with the shapes (with someone to
help and interpret): seven and eight-
year-olds had to think hard to build up
pictures, and enjoyed it. On the other
side of the tape, there was a shape
making game they all also enjoyed, a
kind of electronic Brainy Blocks
where shapes have to be fitted into
larger patterns. The variation in levels
of difficulty was good, starting very
easy and moving gradually to quite
complex patterns.

Measuring Games also used the
computer's capability to play with
shapes well - though it did not allow
children to use it. The programs called
not for measuring, but for visual
discrimination of size, and they helped
children to understand, for example,
the difference between higher and
taller. They had clever graphics and a
wide choice of difficulty.

Money Box came rather unstuck
over the difficulty of clearly represent-
ing coins on the screen. But the
booklet rightly suggested using real
coins, and there was a nicely designed
game to help children learn the differ-
ent values of coins.

Number Games and Alphabet Games
both had a good facility for getting the
computer to draw big, solid numbers,
letters, and some reasonably en-
gaging counting and word games.

Time was carefully thought out but
duller: parents might do better to go
out and buy their children a nice clock.
But taken as a whole, this set of
programs was good enough to start
thinking about the potential of home
computer software for children, par-
ents - and schools. No doubt some
teachers will be highly doubtful about
the merits of parents settling down with
young children to school-type activi-
ties. But the astonishing results of all
the experiments to involve parents
read should make them think again.

There is no doubt that this kind of
program can, rather successfully, en-
courage parents to behave like infant
teachers. If the activities are worth
doing in the classroom, why are teachers
must divide their attention between 25
or 30 children, they are worth doing at
home, cosily and one-to-one.

Virginia Makins

SOFTWARE
REVIEWS
54-57Flights
of fancy

Glider
Survival
£9.95 each
48K Spectrum
Sinclair and Macmillan.

These two simulations were designed
to fit Macmillan's Science Horizons
series, but would fit any relevant
junior or early secondary work. Glider
is a nice simple flight simulator, well
within the grasp of junior age children.
After choosing the time of day and
weather conditions to start your flight,
your glider is towed up to 300 metres
and released.

The idea is to find thermals to gain
and keep enough height to explore the
island below you, and then to land at
the air base (or, failing that, on
grassland). As you fly, you see your
position on a large-scale map of the
ground below, with details of houses
and factories, woods, ploughed fields,
sea and so on.

The weather may change from sun-
ny to cloudy, and thermals vary de-
pending on weather and time of day. A
variometer shows your rate of climb or
descent, so you know when you've
caught a thermal or should head
quickly for a town or a ploughed field
to find one. Your height is shown, and
a dial gives the direction back to the
base.

There are eight choices of direction
- North, Northeast etc. - and an option
to circle, to land or catch a thermal. A
small-scale map in the accompanying
booklet helps you to plan your flight,
and a pause button lets you stop to
think.

With these relatively few instru-
ments and variables, the eight and ten-
year-olds I saw running the program
quickly began to fly intelligently
rather than pushing keys at random -
and they enjoyed it a lot. The program
could fit a wide range of work, on air,
flight (including birds), maps - and
provide interest and motivation.

The emperor's new clothes

The Shiva First Mathematics Program
Logic: Launching Logic: Sets and
Operators
Numeracy: Lift Off With Numbers:
Additional Fun
Four cassettes for BBC Micro (B)
Price: £4.00 each including VAT
Shiva Publishing Ltd, 4 Church Lane,
Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 5RQ.

These are the first four cassettes from
a series of 11 intended to cover the early
stages of logic and numeracy for the
five-to-eight age range. Completion is
due in May 1984. Versions of the
programs will become available for
Sinclair Spectrum (48K), the Electron
and the RML 480Z.

None of the 10 logic programs
departs from stylized representations
of the logic blocks familiar to every
teacher of infant children, though
some of the activities may not be in
such common use. As might be ex-
pected by anyone having a passing
knowledge of Dienes' books or the
Bulmer Mathematics Project, the
programs include filling a colour/shape
matrix, chains of blocks with one
attribute difference, early sorting for
attribute and complement (eg red and
not-red), negation (too frequently
neglected), colour change and shape-
change functions.

The exclusive use of logic blocks in
the programs is puzzling. Sorting and
its associated logic are naturally en-
countered by young children in ordi-
nary locations using real and familiar
objects, on which some quite sophis-
ticated logic work can be based. Struc-
tured logic apparatus is an artificial
elaboration of the everyday world and
cannot be considered appropriate for
launching logic. Early logic com-
plications of the blocks further dis-
tance the programs from the young
child's world.

The 10 numeracy programs offer
more variety, however. Here are birth-
day cakes, ladybirds, and castles, and
the games are more playful in the
Snakes and Ladders tradition. Mathe-
matical topics covered include sorting,
one-to-one correspondence, carding,
and ordinal aspects of number, addi-
tion of numbers from 0 to 10, and
subtraction. Altogether this is a more
attractive package for the children.

Iris V Hewitt is to be complimented
for supporting the tapes with concise
and comprehensible literature with a
guide to loading and a description of
each program. Also included in the
relevant booklets is a keyboard symbol
strip (regrettably only on this paper)
indicating single key inputs for colour,
size, shape and thickness selections in
the logic programs. A useful addition
would be some instructions for nov-
ice technical teachers on how to get a
program to re-run without having to
play the game right to the end.

The structure of the programs, as
distinct from their content, has short-
comings in several instances which
detract seriously from this software's
usefulness in the classroom and its
educational value.

If the shift lock has been accidentally
pressed by wandering small fingers,
not one of the programs will load from
the menu keys not required at any
time should be made clear.

Every program requires a name of
nine characters or less to be entered
before proceeding. What about Chris-
topher, who refuses to be called Chris-
topher or Anne-Marie? Also there must be
several children with the competence
to play the games who are not sub-
stantiated by the name, especially
when the programs have a 1-10
level of difficulty governing the rate at
which the program moves on. For example, move

Paddy Atkins

Fishy

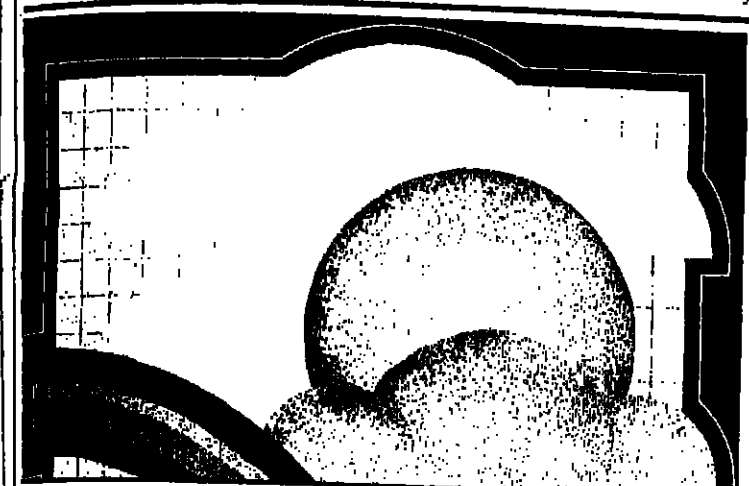
Ollie Octopus Sketchpad
Amazing Ollie
£8.95 each
BBC Micro and Sinclair Spectrum on
cassette
Sarm Software, Winchester Hse,
Wootton Grove, Sherbourne, Dorset.

These programs are presented in
ordinary cassette boxes with instruc-
tions printed on cardboard inserted

*Tape (Return)
*Tape = Ampersand EOU
(Return)
Chain

I doubt if many teachers and parents
would have found that out for them-
selves.

Ollie Octopus Sketchpad is really



Bright periods

Weather Station
Cassette program for BBC(B),
RML40Z or Spectrum £15.00 +
VAT; disc for BBC(B) or Apple
£17.50 approx + VAT, from Arnold-
Whetton Software, Parkside Lane,
Leeds LS1.

Two aspects to be a feeling that
geographical software publishing is
still in an evangelical phase whereby
teachers need to be persuaded that the
computer's abilities are closely match-
ed to the needs of the curriculum.

At first sight it might seem that a
program on weather stations is just one
more extension of this trend, but in
fact Arnold-Whetton Software have
managed to break out of the mould to a
significant extent. They have taken
data handling and information tech-
nology into the classroom, and thus
point the way towards a potential
explosion of new and fruitful computer

Weather Station is a dedicated data-
base. It provides a framework within
which the school's own data can be
stored and later retrieved for display or
analysis, but it is structured in such a
way that it is only appropriate to the
weather data, in contrast to the gener-
al-purpose database programs that are
widely available. This restriction re-
duces flexibility (and, in a sense, value
for money), but it is almost certainly a
necessary stepping stone to enable
uninitiated users to sample the power
of computer data-handling without
having to adapt their own database.

The program is menu-driven, and in
practice its operation would con-
sist of the creation of a new
database to which later observations
would subsequently be added.

Nine information fields are entered
for each record - date, maximum and
minimum temperature, wind strength
and direction, rainfall, cloud cover,
pressure and a one-line weather sum-
mary. Most teachers would be happy
with this list, with the possible excep-
tion of the absence of cloud type, but
the precision of entries to the relative-
ly low precision of whole numbers is
very good. If they were made and in
use in the classroom, the computer
versions would be virtually super-
fluous, relegating the machine for more
original and useful work.

They say that computers are emper-
ors, and to be much more careful
nowadays when buying new clothes.
One supposes that they are seeking
good value for money!

those days which combine 3mm rain-
fall and NE winds. This task may be
trivial for a week's or a month's data,
but becomes both creative and ex-
tremely time-saving with long data
runs. It transcends mechanical man-
ipulation of numbers since it encour-
ages the user to formulate probing
questions about relationships between

thereby makes the operation of weather
data collection merely the first stage
in what becomes a process of classifica-
tion and interpretation.

As a final task in this context, the
program permits searches based on
ranges of data in the categories of
minimum and maximum temperature,
wind strength and rainfall - for exam-
ple, "cold" days (between one and
nine degrees) or "breezy" days (be-
tween three and five on the Beaufort
scale).

Presumably because the program is
available in cassette form in addition to
the disc version here reviewed, it does
have the serious limitation with se-
quential files that the data cannot be
re-ordered once recorded. Mistaken
files can be deleted, but the new
versions will be added onto (and
subsequently displayed) at the end of
the file rather than in their correct
chronological position. This makes no
difference to the operation of the
search facilities, but does make simple
data display less satisfactory.

The problem could be overcome by
restructuring the disc version to use
random access files. Also following
from the apparent cassette parentage
of the program is the fact that the
handbook is aimed exclusively at tape
or Apple disc systems while other users
are left to make the necessary operat-
ing adjustments for themselves.

This is an irritation rather than a
burden except in the case of the sample
file of one month's data which is
provided on disc as a practice infor-
mation set. While this could be located on
a disc sector editor, it failed to load on
more than the first day's data on three
different BBC computers.

Despite these minor flaws the pro-
gram is a very welcome, and worth-
while addition to the software lists, and
offers interest and valuable experience
to students from upper primary to sixth
form level.

In conclusion, Arnold-Whetton
Software are to be congratulated on
having the courage in effect to sell to
the school a program to use the program
in as many versions as it requires. It is
both possible and legal to copy, list and
amend this program within the pur-
chasing school. This facility enormous-
ly increases both the flexibility and
educational value of the product. It is
to be hoped that other publishers will
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M J Clark

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2nd edition

J. Shelley and R. Hunt
Publication May 1984

This widely used textbook explains how a computer is designed to perform its various functions, how human beings use it in order to fulfil these functions, and how it is being used in most walks of life. A number of these descriptions, particularly in data processing and files, are based on particular concrete examples within the experience of students.

The order of the chapters is not intended as a strict teaching or study approach. Many teachers at O-level/CSE prefer to derive their own scheme, some begin with programming, some with history, some with the main components. The book is designed to accompany any of these approaches and for some will constitute a full learning text, for others a back-up text.

A major feature of the revision for this second edition is the placing of the microcomputer into a more central role in the book. The sections on input/output, secondary storage applications and operating systems have, in particular, been updated and the chapter on the principles and techniques of programming has been substantially re-cast. The revision is such, however, that this new edition can be taken as compatible with the first edition if so desired.

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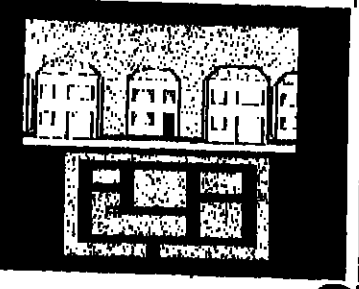
Computers, Information and You

ed G J Neale

Educational discount price: Pupils book £2.95; pack containing teacher's notes, activity sheet masters £9.50. Dulk orders: Acorn CES c/o Vector Marketing, Dennington Estate, Wellesborough, Northants NN8 2RL. Software through local authority advisers or from Acorn-CES, The Hemming, Bath Road, Taplow, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 0AR (0628) 23210.

There has been a remarkably long gestation period for this learning package for top juniors or the early years of the secondary school, but the wait has been worthwhile; clearly the Computer Education in Schools team started by ICL and now taken over by Acorn got the mistakes out of the way during the fifteen years or so that they have been working on this project, and the result is a computer appreciation course which will be a model for the rest, and one very difficult to improve on. So far we have only the first set of software and paperware: Book 2, with its associated materials, is to follow later in the year.

The package consists of a course-



book, a cassette or disc, a set of worksheets and a set of teacher's notes, all good-looking, all well-conceived. The coursebook begins in exactly the right place, with the idea of information, establishing it clearly before the pupil is asked to give much thought to the kind of hardware which may make information easier to process, but also not wasting any time before giving the 'hands-on' experience which gives meaning to talk about computers.

The first activity challenges the pupil to plan a route for an ambulance which will be faster than the route chosen by the program: not only does this demonstrate the power of the machine, it immediately relates to one of the real situations in which computers are used and at once introduces questions about the social implications of the information revolution. This pattern - of giving experience which is enjoyable in itself, informative about the capabilities of the computer, related to uses which are likely to be meaningful to all pupils, and sensibly thought-provoking - is repeated again and again.

One of the most enjoyable of the six programs is *Cargo*, which introduces the idea and experience of programming by getting pupils to plan a series of steps which will get a crane to pick up crates and deposit them on a

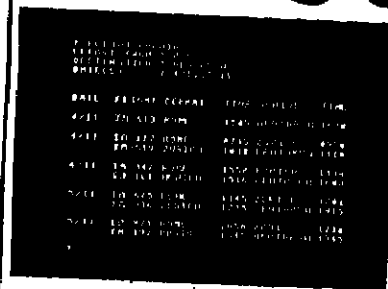
boat - shown in cheerful colours and accompanied by appropriate notes, including some wonderful sound effects if the ship is wrongly loaded and goes down: as the writers remark, 'the man direction is even more clear to the child whose program faithfully sinks the ship!' Graphics are used well here, and even more attractively in *Houses*, which by drawing a scene from many different vantage points, enables the pupil to share in the experience of trying to plan a housing estate.

It will be apparent from the above that one of the greatest virtues of this remarkable piece of work is that it functions in the Dorothy Heathcote mode: it puts pupils in the situation of being experts. My only reservation about it is that some of the names and situations used may suggest to secondary school pupils that the material is intended for younger people than themselves, which would be a pity; as for me, I can hardly wait for the second stage.

The software is available on licence to i.e.s or individual institutions. An institution licence for all programs costs £25.00 plus VAT.

Audrey Laski

Screening COMPUTERS



Computer Studies Software
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It is interesting that Computer Studies teachers, who advocate the use of computers in other disciplines, rarely use them in the teaching of their own subject. This may change now that Acorn-CES (formerly ICL-CES), who have a long history of producing high-quality Computer Studies teaching materials, have produced seven programs to support the applications chapters of the first two books of their examinations course.

Most of the programs seem to be designed on the assumption that the pupils need to see a simulation of an activity described in the book. Unlike many other simulations, they do not carry out a useful task and cannot be used constructively.

The documentation consists mainly of technical details and the teacher is assumed to understand the purpose of the programs and not to need any guidance on their use. In this respect, Acorn-CES follow the lead set by so many computer manufacturers who produce manuals which are suitable only for those who do not need them. The first three programs simulate the action of various tills in supermarkets from cash registers to point-of-sale terminals. The programs add no teaching points to the pupil text and do not highlight any underlying principles. Their use seems to be for motivating pupils who do not go shopping in large stores.

The package would be more useful if it included the use of a computer to aid the learning of the five ways program. This would at least give some appreciation of the difficulties of some of the basic tasks of the program.

acceptable speed, and of entering data when this is not possible. This is an application which is so obviously suited to implementation on a network. On a single computer it is difficult to separate the use made of the system by the terminal operator and by the management.

Computer Studies seems to be one of the few subjects in which practicing teachers are assessed with its historical development. There can be little other reason for including a simulation of a mechanical card sorter for pupils who will rarely, if ever, use punched cards or wish to sort data in this way. The colour graphics are fun and it should keep some otherwise difficult pupils quiet on a wet Friday afternoon.

The teachers who will like *Airline* are the same teachers who will like the first program which enables them to use a tidy simulation of a supermarket checkout rather than persuading their pupils to look at a real supermarket. *Airline* allows the user to search a limited and mythical file for available seats and then book the seats. As the program progresses, the number of seats available tends to decrease to simulate the effect of other terminals on a real-time system.

This approach seems to make the same mistake as the Mathematics for the Majority Continuation Project; it wasted time and money producing simulated timetables and travel brochures, which bored the pupils, rather than encouraging teachers to use the brochures which parents and children read to choose their holidays.

The last two programs are much more ambitious in attempting to deliver a computerized inquiry service and a multi-access system. The latter could be thought a little over-ambitious in a BBC micro with only cassette storage. The last simulation has its large amount of data and the inquiry makes

ers by address, inquire about the price and stock level of items such as gas and make inquiries about petrol. In *WMC* the user can locate parts in a warehouse, store incoming deliveries, order spare parts, identify customers and deal with requests for engineers. Both programs are impressive without carefully following the relevant pages in the textbooks. They illuminate the text with moving words.

All the serious simulations suffer greatly because files are not used. This denies the pupils the chance to see what has happened during updating, to appreciate the need to back-up files, and to understand the continuity of master files in large systems. It is not clear whether this omission was on educational grounds or because of worries about the BBC's poor cassette loading system.

These programs were developed before Acorn took over CES. Most of them would benefit greatly from being available on a network which could genuinely simulate multi-access and real-time working. It seems to be an excellent opportunity for Acorn to show off the features of Ezeqnet while providing educationally worthwhile software. It would also demonstrate their commitment to school computing because such programs would not be suitable for the home market.

The programs in this series are very dependent on the ICL-CES textbooks and are available only on the BBC Micro. This gives them a well-defined market but other Computer Studies teachers should not feel too deprived. The BBC Micro suffers, as an education computer, from overmarketing, limited memory, a poor cassette-loading system and a super-abundance of garden-shed programmers whose technical ability far exceeds their educational understanding. Sadly, this set of programs differs little from many garden-shed products.

Paul McGee

Readers reply to software reviews

Words about "Edword"

Sir - The comparison between *Edword* and *Wordwise*, by Jacqueline Megarry (TES February 3), was not a true comparison, neither was it apparently written from practical experience of *Edword* in the classroom. We must bear in mind that teachers are generally looking for a package suitable for use with pupils. Whilst particular features and modes of use may be acceptable to teachers, pupils can experience conceptual and operational difficulties in using them.

Edword was developed over a two-year period with practising teachers from eight i.e.s. Both the software and teaching materials were trialled in 11 schools and colleges. The MEP CANS Co-ordinators from 14 Regions in England, Wales and N Ireland had no less than 100 copies for evaluation.

The development of *Edword* was concerned with practising teachers. Megarry compares facilities provided by two chips. To dismiss *Edword* as 'too light' is to miss the whole point by failing to appreciate the needs identified by both teachers and pupils. Ms Megarry is unfortunately drawn too easily into the trap of simply evaluating what software can do rather than what a total package provides for classroom use.

Throughout the article one is conscious of the needs of the majority of pupils being ignored. Much time is devoted to long documents and there is no reference to senior pupils' needs. If one identifies aims and objectives for the development of creative writing skills, and indeed for improving understanding of word processing, then the need for long documents is at best highly questionable. *Edword* allows documents of between three and four A4 pages to be created and manipulated.

Edword allows text entry in both 80 and 40-column modes with text being displayed at all times, in the format in which it will be printed. *Wordwise* allows only a preview in 80-column mode and this is only possible if enough memory remains unused. Aiding pupils to create say five columns of text in 40-column mode which are to be printed in 80-column mode is, in the view of our teachers, a necessary complication. Why not make it in 80-column mode?

I would like to put right one or two of the 'misconceptions' within Ms Megarry's article. Command Q is provided to allow pupils to quit without saving any changes made to the text. If Ms Megarry had worked through the self-instructional guide as pupils do, she would have found that the command is introduced at an appropriate point. However, details of the command can be found in two command summaries and a section in

the User Guide for those who will insist on experimenting. Ms Megarry is wrong with regard to the use of the printer: *Edword* can provide italic and double strike on printers that support these features. Her suggestion that *Edword*'s method of driving the printer is slow does not stand up. *Edword* drives the printer much as any other program would drive the printer. The speed is determined by the printing device being used.

I strongly contest Ms Megarry's view that *Edword* might take longer to learn than *Wordwise*. Ms Megarry is a *Wordwise* user of some 15 months. Pupils are newcomers to word-processing. In choosing a word-processing package for pupils one does not, as suggested, consider priorities but aims, objectives, needs and abilities. It would be most interesting to compare pupils learning with the *Edword* self-instructional material and user guide and those learning with the *Wordwise* manual.

Ms Megarry makes no mention of the fact that not one *Edword* command requires simultaneous key depressions. Her desire to program the function keys using *Wordwise* requires three keys to be held down simultaneously. With *Edword* letterheads can be incorporated on screen before printing, and 'your' instructions (embedded commands) are simply not required by *Edword* which has an excellent screen-based formatting mode.

Edword has been designed, developed and trialled with teachers and pupils to reflect the needs and match the abilities of pupils. Unfortunately, Ms Megarry provides us with no evidence of having used the package with pupils - unlike the CAD review by Chris Rivlin on the same page which stated 'So, with the help of a group of fourth formers and the head of Craft Design Technology from a Manchester school, it was put to test on a BBC micro'. On this basis one must ask, does Ms Megarry's article have any educational authority?

PETER R. WESTON
Project Director
Word, Text and Information
Processing
Microelectronics Education
Programme in Wales
MEP Regional Sub-Centre
101 Box Lane
Wrexham, Clwyd LL12 7RB

Jacqueline Megarry comments:
My review clearly states that *Edword* succeeds in introducing beginners to the concepts and principles of word-processing. Far from 'dismissing the documentation' I made a special point of praising it. What I questioned was

whether *Edword* was powerful enough to cope with schools' other needs. The economic reality is that most schools must choose, and teachers' needs will influence that choice. How many will want to confine themselves to a wordprocessor that could not even cope with a document as long as Mr Weston's letter?

The 'factual misconceptions' are illusory:
● *Edword* took 15 seconds to print in bold underline a sentence that took two seconds under *Wordwise* using exactly the same printer under identical conditions.
● No *Wordwise* commands require simultaneous key depressions either - but the option of programming the red keys provides extra flexibility for those that want to use both hands.
● I did work through both self-instructional guide and User Guide, which is how I found Command Q (on pages 95 and 53 respectively). In addition I insisted on experimenting with the specimen documents supplied on disc, as many teachers have done - and found this information none too accessible.
● As supplied, *Edword* will only make an M-X2 do bold and enlarged effects; it will not do double-strike. Although you can reconfigure it using the Print

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bits

other educationists. Educational institutions will be sent invitations.

SPELLIT

A reader has sent in the following discovery for users of 'Quest', the information retrieval program available from AUCBE, Endymion Road, Hatfield, Herts.

The program, he says, can be used as part of a word bank approach to spelling. To do this a file is opened for 'English words', and a call sign of up to seven letters (spelled?) attached. Words which a pupil needs to learn are then entered and may be recalled by listing groups of letters, for example 'ough' or 'llon', to which the teacher wishes to draw attention as a sub-group.

Once entered, a list of words may be scanned in a number of ways, and new words added in order to build up programs. Other information retrieval programs may have similar capabilities.

SHAKESPEARE PLAYS

To join the growing list of study software for English, Penguin have announced that they are publishing six titles under their new Penguin Study Software label at the end of March. The titles will be 'Macbeth', 'Henry IV, part 1', 'Twelfth Night', 'Romeo and Juliet', 'Julius Caesar' and 'The Merchant of Venice'.

Penguin emphasizes that the programs will neither replace the text nor 'provide the students with glib answers', instead, the students are referred back to relevant passages in the text at all times, they say.

The software will be designed for the 48K Sinclair Spectrum and each title will cost £5.95. Further information: Penguin.

EASTER FAIR

The London Computer Fair is being held at the Central Hall, Westminster, over the Easter Bank Holiday weekend - Thursday 19, Saturday 21 and Monday 23. This is the fifth annual fair to be sponsored by the Association of London Computer Clubs. There are displays of software, hardware, peripherals and services and a robotic conference and talks on computer education.

Home Computer with the Logo for £175 (excluding VAT). The normal price of the Atari 600XL without the Logo is £159 including VAT.

SINCLAIR EDUCATION

The first Sinclair Education Exhibition will be held from March 28-30 at the Central Hall, Westminster, when Sinclair and around 50 supporting companies will be exhibiting. Entry is by invitation only and is restricted to teachers, lecturers and

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EXTRA

Cause for complaint

Not all micros are robust. Michael Shaw reports on his tribulations with one that was not

I welcomed the DOI initiative in the primary school with open arms. My application to have a BBC Micro arrived in the same day that the form arrived on my desk and after about three months I and one of my staff were summoned to our initial course run by the i.e.a. This was a part of the package and was designed to give us some ideas as to how we could use the micro and to give us "hands on" experience. It was a very interesting day and one we both enjoyed. But I should have known that there was something wrong when one of the tapes refused to load for the second time having performed perfectly well the first time. A spare copy was given



to me and all was well. At the end of the day the computer and its bits went into the back of my car so that I could take the programs out at home and my children could see what they could make of the MEP packages.

The welcome tape was the first one to be tried. The first time through it all worked but gradually fewer and fewer of the programs ran. Strange words appeared on the screen: "data", "block". What did they mean? Was this what I had committed £350 of capitulation to? I suppose I am lucky in that I had the advice of a neighbour who diagnosed a faulty tape recorder. That was put right and a new one was ordered but the damage had been done and two tapes had to be replaced.

I had managed to make use of the recorder of my own which was kinder to the remaining tapes and I had been left a couple of games, so all looked fair for the Easter Holiday. My son aged 10 called me down one morning "Dad what does this mean?" The computer said "language". I asked my neighbour, the language ROM had gone wrong and there was no way I could do anything at home. What can

you say to a frustrated and angry son who had seen the tapes being damaged and who wanted to play "Snoopy" and what could I say to the other member of staff who was going to have the machine after the holiday?

Back at school I phoned Acorn Computers who went to a great deal of trouble to get the problem sorted out. A very calm sympathetic voice at the end of the telephone said "Yes sir, you undo the four screws showing and the top comes off, you won't hurt the computer". But it was no use, back it went for repair. Frustration all round.

The replacement tape recorder arrived and was tried out with an audiotape to check the head alignment. The entire machine was locked solid. There was no way anything could be made to happen; back it went. A third one followed and after adjustment it works perfectly. But several staff members who had been lightly resistant to the idea of a computer were now positively hostile, after all it had taken a great chunk of the school's allowance and that could have been used for other things. Others were sympathetic; tape recorders go wrong so all technology was suspect.

Soon after this the repaired computer arrived and I was able to start the computer staff training that had been in progress. All was going well except for the occasional loading problems and they were solved by the introduction of a disc drive. That took a little while to master and finally the elder brother of a pupil explained the correct way to use it.

The computer had been in the school for a month and my earlier fears

were slowly fading. I should have known better. A call from one of the staff: the word "language" was on screen again. Once more the computer went back to Acorn and the staff training program stopped and the staff started muttering. So did parents who had decided to raise money to pay for the computer and the disc drive.

This time the repair seemed to work; for the rest of the summer term the computer was in use in as many classes as possible. Staff took it home and all was well. The summer holiday saw it being shared and it was transported all around Luton and even came to St Albans. Most of the staff were getting interested, even one of the most ardent anti-computer member of staff became involved when she realised that the children were quite capable of setting it up and the disc system made loading very easy.

A school computer club started and we had a "Snapper" competition since two of us had brought games for our own children to use. Then trouble



Michael Shaw is head of a junior school.

again, the terrible word "language" was seen. This time in anger I took it to our computer centre and borrowed a spare machine while they examined it carefully. A few days later I was asked to collect it, the fault had been traced to a loose ROM and all that was needed was a gentle push of the right bit. Two days on and more would make it go. By now I admit to being more than just angry I was prepared to visit Vector Marketing and demand a replacement. A phone call elicited the following information:

Yes, you do have cause for complaint. Return the computer and we will replace it.

The only problem is that at present we do not have any in stock.

Much to my amazement three days later a large parcel came to school with a brand new computer. This is one of the latest models and certainly seems much better in that the keyboard has a smoother feel to it. At the moment it is being user tested by my colleague and she is very pleased with it. I just hope that this one does not let us down.

If I was the only person to experience these problems then I could accept that we had got a "Friday Computer" but my experience has been met in other schools in the area. As the organiser of a local self-help group I am aware of others with similar problems.

On the negative side is the frustration and anger felt by the staff. Local advisors are saying that the curriculum needs to be changed to accommodate the new technology and yet the new technology is not reliable. On the positive side, well I have made a lot of new friends in the area discussing the computer. I have learnt how to take the lid off. I have also discovered that big business does have a kind face, certainly Acorn and Vector Marketing have been very helpful even replacing the original damaged tapes.

I am looking forward to computing in 1984 especially as I have got a place on a Cambridge Institute Course, hopefully the new machine will survive to perform well and the children can benefit from the spin off ideas that are starting to come from the staff. I might even consider buying a computer in the next couple of years for myself. Where did I put the Phillips screwdriver?

Michael Shaw is head of a junior school.

Computer college

Michael Houser visits a holiday camp

have as much hands-on time as they can.

Peter Fry, a control engineer turned educator who heads Millfield's computing department, runs Computer College. His philosophy is that every one coming to the holiday courses should have his own micro to work with, a congenial mixed sex and age group to work with, and easy access to well-qualified staff - the latter a notable shortcoming of some centres.

Millfield's staff of eight are all teachers, and participants enjoy a ratio of roughly 6:1 with them. Instruction is relaxed though formal initially (worksheets, board work) with the emphasis very much on computer awareness, programming and practical applications - and away from games.

According to Peter Fry, "people come for all sorts of reasons: 'Young children have the choice generally made for them by their parents. The very keen and able who may have run up against the inevitable limitations of most schools suffer at the moment can come and pick our brains; our aim is to extend them all we can'.

Increasingly in the past three to four years, Millfield has attracted to our families. 'Some parents', he says, 'want to know what their children are doing. Others merely like the idea of computing in a social atmosphere - we even get a few grandmothers who want to try to understand what their grandchildren are doing'.

Although Millfield offers non-residential places (courses cost from £33 for beginners, basic to £78 for all-day advanced courses), one of the strongest attractions is the chance to mix computing with a holiday. On a residential basis, this combined with

an emphasis on computing rather than games (which Fry feels have turned kids away from computers), has brought higher-than-average female turnout. Fry estimates that a quarter of the under-18s are girls and more than half the parents women.

The reactions of former participants I spoke to suggest that the course is getting its priorities right. Adults seem particularly to enjoy the mixed environment in which roles were reversed with many of the children helping with tasks; staff were able to solve problems across a range of hardware and languages. Younger participants seem to have enjoyed programming more than they expected. Fry thinks that why games are so popular with kids: 'They are one of the few applications which children can relate to. Developing a program, however simple, shows them that it's the path which is interesting, not the getting there'.

With more and more computer holidays to choose from, and with so much variation in content and quality, what are the important criteria on which to base your choice?

The type of equipment and your access to it are important. The better courses all offer a 1:1 ratio on the micros, and the equipment on offer should be compatible with your experience, your own home computer, or ones used at school. If not, most centres are happy for you to bring your own.

language familiarity. Some companies use undergraders who float rather than teach; you can end up paying anything from £80 to £200 a week for lots of "access" but little planned instruction if you don't investigate first.

Finally, if it's a holiday you're after, particularly a family one, examine the non-computing options and facilities available. As a loose guideline: universities seem strong on the computing side and holiday specialists strong on the activities side.

Edsoft

This supplement's featured program PROGO for BBC Micro in this LOGO style program @ £2.95 you are offered DRAW, MOVE, TURN, REP and other pre-defined functions, a comprehensive manual and room for your own procedures. For this and other programs: 78 Woodville Road, Exmouth EX8 1BW Tel: (0384) 278741

CLASSROOM TESTED BBC SOFTWARE

Resistor (SAS), Tilt and practice in identifying resistors by colour code, followed by a game requiring accurate resistor values. Logic (SAS), Presentation with testing of symbols logic gates and truth tables. A second program permits choice to be compared on a screen and operated. Ideal for demonstrating half-adders. The documentation provides complete instructions. £2.95 (Cheque) Further details of software on cassette and disc will be sent with order. Alternatively send a SAE to: RJE SOFTWARE, 140 Woodland Road, London E11 2SW

TIMETABLING ON BBC

"SQUARED", friendly but sophisticated timetabling and analysis on disc. Only £25. Moneyback 90 days. Tel: 0252 222222

YORK HOUSE SOFTWARE

39 West Street, Dundee, Scotland DD1 1JL Tel: 0344 222222

Classified Advertisements

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Appointments

vacant

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Masters/Mistresses

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Deputy Headships Senior

Masters/Mistresses

Headships

Deputy

POWYS

COUNCIL COUNCIL
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
BUTLERS WELLS HIGH
(Mixed Comprehensive 11-18)
Required for 1st September, 1984.
A qualified Head Teacher, Salary of Group and further particulars obtainable from the Director of Education, Powys Education Department, The Llanidloes Road, Llanidloes, Powys, SY15 2TA. To whom completed forms should be returned by 15th March 1984. (Ref: 130010)

Deputy Headships
Second Masters/
Mistresses

BARNET

LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET COUNCIL
Schools
Barnet, 11-18
Mixed Comprehensive, Roll 12,000.
Sixth Form College.
Required for 1st September 1984.
A qualified and experienced Head Teacher, Salary of Group 11-18, plus London Allowance, and further particulars obtainable from the Director of Education, Barnet Education Department, Barnet, Herts. SG5 1AB. To whom completed forms should be returned by 15th March 1984. (Ref: 130012)

HUMBERSIDE EDUCATION
COMMITTEE

Required for September, 1984 for the following schools

Greatfield High School, Humberston, Hull.
North Humberside
837 Pupils on roll, Burnham Group 11, Age Range 13-18
Hiddings Comprehensive School, Enderby Road, Southorpe, South Humberside
821 Pupils on roll, Burnham Group 10, Age Range 11-18

Applications are invited from suitable qualified and experienced teachers for the posts of Headteacher which will become vacant with effect from 31st August, 1984, following the retirement of the respective Heads of the Schools. The successful candidates will be expected to commence duty in September, 1984.

Application forms and further particulars are obtainable from the Director of Education (HQ Barnet), County Hall, Barnet, North Humberside HU17 9BA. (Tel: (0482) 667311, Ext. 3318 to whom completed forms should be returned not later than Wednesday, 21st March, 1984.
All applicants are considered on the basis of their suitability for the job irrespective of disability, race, creed, sex or marital status. Disabled candidates whose applications have the written support of their D.O. will be guaranteed an interview.

(9142)

SOUTH GLAMORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL
DEPUTY HEADSHIPS
SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced teachers for the Deputy Headships of the following 11-18 Mixed Comprehensive Schools. The successful candidates will be required to take up duties in September, 1984:
(a) Cantonian High School, Cardiff - Group 12
The vacancy has arisen through retirement. No. on Roll 1400, 8 Form Entry.
(b) Porthkerry High School, Cardiff - Group 12
The vacancy has arisen through retirement. No. on Roll 1400, 8 Form Entry.
(c) St. David's High School, Cardiff - Group 11
The vacancy has arisen through retirement. No. on Roll 1400, 8 Form Entry.
(d) St. David's Comprehensive School, Penarth - Group 12
The vacancy has arisen through retirement. No. on Roll 1740, 7 Form Entry.
Application forms and further details may be obtained on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope from the Director of Education, Education Offices, Kingsway, Cardiff CF1 1AJ. To whom completed forms should be returned within four days of the appearance of the advertisement.
L. J. A. Cule, Director of Education, Education Offices, Kingsway, Cardiff.

(9142)

BERKSHIRE

EMMBROOK SCHOOL
1001 Road, Wokingham
RG40 1AA
Roll 1,300 (11-18 co-ed)
Required for September 1984.
A qualified Head Teacher, Salary of Group 11-18, plus London Allowance, and further particulars obtainable from the Director of Education, Berkshire Education Department, The Llanidloes Road, Llanidloes, Powys, SY15 2TA. To whom completed forms should be returned by 15th March 1984. (Ref: 130010)

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

COUNCIL COUNCIL
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Buckingham, 11-18
Mixed Comprehensive, Roll 1,300.
Sixth Form College.
Required for 1st September 1984.
A qualified and experienced Head Teacher, Salary of Group 11-18, plus London Allowance, and further particulars obtainable from the Director of Education, Buckingham Education Department, Buckingham, Bucks. MK18 1AT. To whom completed forms should be returned by 15th March 1984. (Ref: 130012)

BURY

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF BURY COUNCIL
Schools
Bury, 11-18
Mixed Comprehensive, Roll 1,300.
Sixth Form College.
Required for 1st September 1984.
A qualified and experienced Head Teacher, Salary of Group 11-18, plus London Allowance, and further particulars obtainable from the Director of Education, Bury Education Department, Bury, Lancs. BL9 9AB. To whom completed forms should be returned by 15th March 1984. (Ref: 130012)

HAVERING

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING COUNCIL
Schools
Havering, 11-18
Mixed Comprehensive, Roll 1,300.
Sixth Form College.
Required for 1st September 1984.
A qualified and experienced Head Teacher, Salary of Group 11-18, plus London Allowance, and further particulars obtainable from the Director of Education, Havering Education Department, Havering, Essex. SS16 5AB. To whom completed forms should be returned by 15th March 1984. (Ref: 130012)

HOUNSLOW

Senior teacher co-ordinator of Community Provisions, under Year 9 and community.
Hounslow, 11-18
Mixed Comprehensive, Roll 1,300.
Sixth Form College.
Required for 1st September 1984.
A qualified and experienced Head Teacher, Salary of Group 11-18, plus London Allowance, and further particulars obtainable from the Director of Education, Hounslow Education Department, Hounslow, Middlesex. TW4 6AB. To whom completed forms should be returned by 15th March 1984. (Ref: 130012)

KINGSTON UPON THAMES

ROYAL BOROUGH OF KINGSTON UPON THAMES COUNCIL
Schools
Kingston, 11-18
Mixed Comprehensive, Roll 1,300.
Sixth Form College.
Required for 1st September 1984.
A qualified and experienced Head Teacher, Salary of Group 11-18, plus London Allowance, and further particulars obtainable from the Director of Education, Kingston Education Department, Kingston, Surrey. KT1 1AB. To whom completed forms should be returned by 15th March 1984. (Ref: 130012)

LONDON

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL (RC)
11-18
Mixed Comprehensive, Roll 1,300.
Sixth Form College.
Required for 1st September 1984.
A qualified and experienced Head Teacher, Salary of Group 11-18, plus London Allowance, and further particulars obtainable from the Director of Education, London Education Department, London. W1A 1AB. To whom completed forms should be returned by 15th March 1984. (Ref: 130012)

MERTON

LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON COUNCIL
Schools
Merton, 11-18
Mixed Comprehensive, Roll 1,300.
Sixth Form College.
Required for 1st September 1984.
A qualified and experienced Head Teacher, Salary of Group 11-18, plus London Allowance, and further particulars obtainable from the Director of Education, Merton Education Department, Merton, London. SW19 1AB. To whom completed forms should be returned by 15th March 1984. (Ref: 130012)

OLDHAM

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF OLDHAM COUNCIL
Schools
Oldham, 11-18
Mixed Comprehensive, Roll 1,300.
Sixth Form College.
Required for 1st September 1984.
A qualified and experienced Head Teacher, Salary of Group 11-18, plus London Allowance, and further particulars obtainable from the Director of Education, Oldham Education Department, Oldham, Lancs. OL1 1AB. To whom completed forms should be returned by 15th March 1984. (Ref: 130012)

SUNDERLAND

BOROUGH OF SUNDERLAND COUNCIL
Schools
Sunderland, 11-18
Mixed Comprehensive, Roll 1,300.
Sixth Form College.
Required for 1st September 1984.
A qualified and experienced Head Teacher, Salary of Group 11-18, plus London Allowance, and further particulars obtainable from the Director of Education, Sunderland Education Department, Sunderland, Co. Durham. SR1 1AB. To whom completed forms should be returned by 15th March 1984. (Ref: 130012)

WILTSHIRE

COUNCIL COUNCIL
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Wiltshire, 11-18
Mixed Comprehensive, Roll 1,300.
Sixth Form College.
Required for 1st September 1984.
A qualified and experienced Head Teacher, Salary of Group 11-18, plus London Allowance, and further particulars obtainable from the Director of Education, Wiltshire Education Department, Wiltshire. W1A 1AB. To whom completed forms should be returned by 15th March 1984. (Ref: 130012)

Second Master/
Second Mistress
Highview High School
The Chase, Wallington,
Surrey.

Required from 1st September, 1984.
The school has approximately 470 pupils on roll.
Further particulars and application form from Director of Education, The Grove, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 3AL (S.A.E. please). 24 hour telephone answering service: 01-661 5741.
Closing date 18th March 1984.
London Borough of Sutton

St Christophers Community
Home with Education
Scale 1 Teacher

St Christophers in Hayes, Middlesex, is managed by Social Services for the London Region. It has developed as a flexible resource in an urban setting to provide full residential care for 20+ boys and day care for up to 15 boys (13-18 years). These boys have a wide range of abilities and difficulties. The home works closely with families, the community and local schools.
We need a TEACHER:
- to plan and execute individual educational programmes
- to work with individuals or small groups
- to teach basics and general subjects
- to help develop programmes for 10-12
- to blend intellectual, social and life skills teaching
- to offer a range of extra-curricular activities
- to manage 'extreme' behaviour
- to participate with residential and field social workers.
For further information, please ring Keith Lewis (Assistant Principal) or Phil Friend (Principal) on 01-561 1298.
Salary dependent on experience plus £1,000 Responsibility Allowance and £215 London Weighting.
Application form and further details from the Personnel Officer, Ref: 56267/7/84, Civic Centre, Uxbridge, Telephone 0181 608 5000 (24 hour answering service). Applications from disabled persons welcome.
Closing date 15th March 1984.
St Christophers Community Home with Education

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REMEDIAL POSTS

Heads of Department

CUMBRIA

COUNCIL COUNCIL
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Cumbria, 11-18
Mixed Comprehensive, Roll 1,300.
Sixth Form College.
Required for 1st September 1984.
A qualified and experienced Head Teacher, Salary of Group 11-18, plus London Allowance, and further particulars obtainable from the Director of Education, Cumbria Education Department, Cumbria. CA1 1AB. To whom completed forms should be returned by 15th March 1984. (Ref: 130012)

SUFFOLK

COUNCIL COUNCIL
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Suffolk, 11-18
Mixed Comprehensive, Roll 1,300.
Sixth Form College.
Required for 1st September 1984.
A qualified and experienced Head Teacher, Salary of Group 11-18, plus London Allowance, and further particulars obtainable from the Director of Education, Suffolk Education Department, Suffolk. IP1 1AB. To whom completed forms should be returned by 15th March 1984. (Ref: 130012)

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

THURSTON UPPER SCHOOL
Thurston, near Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk, 11-18
Mixed Comprehensive, Roll 1,300.
Sixth Form College.
Required for 1st September 1984.
A qualified and experienced Head Teacher, Salary of Group 11-18, plus London Allowance, and further particulars obtainable from the Director of Education, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk. IP1 1AB. To whom completed forms should be returned by 15th March 1984. (Ref: 130012)

SUNDERLAND

BOROUGH OF SUNDERLAND COUNCIL
Schools
Sunderland, 11-18
Mixed Comprehensive, Roll 1,300.
Sixth Form College.
Required for 1st September 1984.
A qualified and experienced Head Teacher, Salary of Group 11-18, plus London Allowance, and further particulars obtainable from the Director of Education, Sunderland Education Department, Sunderland, Co. Durham. SR1 1AB. To whom completed forms should be returned by 15th March 1984. (Ref: 130012)

WILTSHIRE

COUNCIL COUNCIL
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Wiltshire, 11-18
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Sixth Form College.
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A qualified and experienced Head Teacher, Salary of Group 11-18, plus London Allowance, and further particulars obtainable from the Director of Education, Wiltshire Education Department, Wiltshire. W1A 1AB. To whom completed forms should be returned by 15th March 1984. (Ref: 130012)

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REMEDIAL POSTS

Heads of Department

CUMBRIA

COUNCIL COUNCIL
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Cumbria, 11-18
Mixed Comprehensive, Roll 1,300.
Sixth Form College.
Required for 1st September 1984.
A qualified and experienced Head Teacher, Salary of Group 11-18, plus London Allowance, and further particulars obtainable from the Director of Education, Cumbria Education Department, Cumbria. CA1 1AB. To whom completed forms should be returned by 15th March 1984. (Ref: 130012)

SUFFOLK

COUNCIL COUNCIL
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Suffolk, 11-18
Mixed Comprehensive, Roll 1,300.
Sixth Form College.
Required for 1st September 1984.
A qualified and experienced Head Teacher, Salary of Group 11-18, plus London Allowance, and further particulars obtainable from the Director of Education, Suffolk Education Department, Suffolk. IP1 1AB. To whom completed forms should be returned by 15th March 1984. (Ref: 130012)

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

THURSTON UPPER SCHOOL
Thurston, near Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk, 11-18
Mixed Comprehensive, Roll 1,300.
Sixth Form College.
Required for 1st September 1984.
A qualified and experienced Head Teacher, Salary of Group 11-18, plus London Allowance, and further particulars obtainable from the Director of Education, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk. IP1 1AB. To whom completed forms should be returned by 15th March 1984. (Ref: 130012)

SUNDERLAND

BOROUGH OF SUNDERLAND COUNCIL
Schools
Sunderland, 11-18
Mixed Comprehensive, Roll 1,300.
Sixth Form College.
Required for 1st September 1984.
A qualified and experienced Head Teacher, Salary of Group 11-18, plus London Allowance, and further particulars obtainable from the Director of Education, Sunderland Education Department, Sunderland, Co. Durham. SR1 1AB. To whom completed forms should be returned by 15th March 1984. (Ref: 130012)

WILTSHIRE

COUNCIL COUNCIL
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Wiltshire, 11-18
Mixed Comprehensive, Roll 1,300.
Sixth Form College.
Required for 1st September 1984.
A qualified and experienced Head Teacher, Salary of Group 11-18, plus London Allowance, and further particulars obtainable from the Director of Education, Wiltshire Education Department, Wiltshire. W1A 1AB. To whom completed forms should be returned by 15th March 1984. (Ref: 130012)

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Mixed Comprehensive, Roll 1,300.
Sixth Form College.
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REMEDIAL POSTS

Heads of Department

CUMBRIA

Dukeries Centre and Community College

Vice Principal

(Campus and Outreach)

£13,395-£14,379 p.a. (PO range 11-14)

The Dukeries Centre, situated in Ollerton, is a new development aiming to use space released by falling rolls in the Comprehensive School for the community. This is a joint venture between Nottinghamshire County Council and Newark District Council with some involvement of the Department of Education and Science. The public will have access to increased educational opportunities provided on the campus. There will be shared use of a library, a day centre for the elderly, a family centre and an agency base providing some part-time facilities for Local Authority, Central Government and Voluntary Bodies. There is already a Sports Centre, Youth Club and Residential Training Centre on site and an Adult Training Centre is to be provided for the mentally handicapped. The Centre has been described as a 'Place for the Family'.

This post is one of four Vice-Principals, and will be responsible for planning, promoting and co-ordinating all the activities on site which are not directly provided by the school. He/she will supervise central services including building, clerical, financial, health and safety and security services and will be a member of the senior management team responsible for the purposeful development of all aspects of the Dukeries Centre.

We require an imaginative innovator with a proven record of completing and administering a full range of more areas of senior management. Good academic and/or professional qualifications would be an advantage. He/she must combine individual initiative with the ability to work harmoniously as a member of a corporate team, and be prepared to take a flexible stance where holidays and working hours are concerned.

Re-location expenses where appropriate. Further details can be obtained from the Clerk of the County Council and Chief Executive at County Hall to whom letters of application with the names of two referees and a curriculum vitae, should be sent marked for the attention of the Principal, Dukeries Centre and Community College. Closing date 23rd March. Please quote ref: 148. (8111)

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Nottinghamshire

HUMBERSIDE COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL CENTRE FOR TEACHERS

TEACHER FELLOWSHIP

Curriculum Development 14-16

Applications are invited for a one year full-time Fellowship by secondment at this College for the academic year 1984/85 to lead this DES project through its second year. Forms and further particulars are available from:

The Professional Centre for Teachers, School of Teacher Education, Humberside College of Higher Education, Ingcliffe Avenue, Hull HU4 7LU. Persons wishing to discuss this challenging opportunity may telephone Dr Dennis Bates (0482) 42167.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 18th March. (8190)

HUMBERSIDE COLLEGE of Higher Education

Deputy Manager

£8,154-£9,660 p.a.

The MURDOCH-TREVITHICK CENTRE caters for 150 mentally handicapped people at Redruth.

The person appointed must have had considerable experience in dealing with mentally handicapped adults and should have a relevant qualification.

Application forms and further particulars from the Director of Social Services, County Hall, Station Road, Truro TR1 3AU. Closing date 16th March 1984. Please quote ref. no. 124 when applying.

Cornwall

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS continued

GLASGOW

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW
DEPARTMENT OF ADULT & CONTINUING EDUCATION
CONTINUING EDUCATION LIAISON UNIT

SENIOR LECTURERSHIP
Applications are invited for post at Senior Lecturer level for leader of the above unit.

The successful applicant will be responsible for the delivery of Adult and Continuing Education for students, co-ordinating and promoting the provision of specialist courses. Initially the appointment will be for five years.

Salary will be within the range £12,195 to £13,995 on the scale for Senior Lecturers.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Academic Officer, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ, who will send an application form (three copies) giving names and addresses of referees, should be sent to the Principal, Glasgow University, Glasgow G12 8QQ, before 24th March 1984.

In reply please quote Ref. No. 25057. (3) 26000

LANCASTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF LANCASTER
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH
LECTURERSHIP IN EDUCATION AND ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT

Applications are invited for a tenured lectureship in Educational Organisation and Management to teach mainly on the M.A. Education and Management. Candidates should have had practical experience of management in education, and a postgraduate degree in a relevant area of study would be an advantage.

Salary will be in the range £7,190 to £12,195 according to age, qualification and experience.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Principal, Lancaster University, Bailrigg, Lancaster LA1 4YW. Applications should be sent to the Principal, Lancaster University, Bailrigg, Lancaster LA1 4YW, before 15th March 1984. (8190)

LONDON

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
British Postgraduate Medical Institute

Research position up to post doctorate level in the first instance, studying the regulation of cell growth and division in vitro (lung, peritoneal, and colorectal cancer cells). Researcher should have a postgraduate degree in a relevant area of study and experience in cell culture techniques in experimental biology.

Salary range £5,510 to £7,744 according to age, qualification and experience. Further details and application form should be sent to the Secretary, British Postgraduate Medical Institute, 11 Bedford Square, London WC1R 4EJ. For further details on J.C. Laurence 01-258 5378.

Applications to include curriculum vitae, list of publications and names of referees should be sent to the Secretary, British Postgraduate Medical Institute, 11 Bedford Square, London WC1R 4EJ. Closing date 15th March 1984. (8190)

LONDON

CENTRE FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION

(Chelsea College)

Research Opportunities

The Centre for Science Education is seeking applications from well qualified individuals in the field of research in any of the areas listed below. These include: assessment, teaching, learning, curriculum, research, and evaluation. The successful applicant will be responsible for the delivery of research in the above areas and will be a member of the Centre's research committee.

Salaries range from £5,510 to £7,744 according to age, qualification and experience. Further details and application form should be sent to the Secretary, Centre for Science Education, Chelsea College, London SW3 3LH. Closing date 15th March 1984. (8190)

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Colleges of Higher Education

Other Appointments

LINCOLN

BISHOP GROSVENOR COLLEGE
Lincoln LN1 3DY

Applications are invited for the post of Senior Lecturer in the Department of Teaching Studies, with special reference to work in the Early Years (0-5) and in-service. Recent experience with the 0-5 age range is essential. Residential accommodation would be available if required.

Further details from The Principal, Bishop Grosvenor College, Lincoln LN1 3DY (053555)

MIDDLESEX

WEST LONDON INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MOVEMENT

(one year appointment in the first instance)

Required for September 1984 a SECONDARY RESEARCHER (experienced) to work on the project 'The Church and the City' (with higher degree), for work in the field of Christian Education and widely in the South of England.

Salary in accordance with the Institute's scale for teachers of PE (viz. £11,195 to £13,195 plus £645 Outer London Allowance).

Further information and application form from The Principal, West London Institute of Higher Education, 100, Finchley Road, London NW2 8NU. Applications should be sent to the Principal, West London Institute of Higher Education, 100, Finchley Road, London NW2 8NU, before 15th March 1984. (8190)

Adult Education

DERBYSHIRE
GOSPORT SCHOOL
Stables Lane, Gosport

For September or earlier or qualified ADULT COMMUNITY WORKER to take over the area of Adult Community Education in Gosport.

Applicants should have a postgraduate degree in a relevant area of study and experience in adult education.

Salary will be in the range £7,190 to £12,195 according to age, qualification and experience.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Principal, Gosport School, Stables Lane, Gosport. Applications should be sent to the Principal, Gosport School, Stables Lane, Gosport, before 15th March 1984. (8190)

LONDON

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
British Postgraduate Medical Institute

Research position up to post doctorate level in the first instance, studying the regulation of cell growth and division in vitro (lung, peritoneal, and colorectal cancer cells). Researcher should have a postgraduate degree in a relevant area of study and experience in cell culture techniques in experimental biology.

Salary range £5,510 to £7,744 according to age, qualification and experience. Further details and application form should be sent to the Secretary, British Postgraduate Medical Institute, 11 Bedford Square, London WC1R 4EJ. For further details on J.C. Laurence 01-258 5378.

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(Chelsea College)

Research Opportunities

The Centre for Science Education is seeking applications from well qualified individuals in the field of research in any of the areas listed below. These include: assessment, teaching, learning, curriculum, research, and evaluation. The successful applicant will be responsible for the delivery of research in the above areas and will be a member of the Centre's research committee.

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REDBRIDGE

LONGWORTH SCHOOL
Redbridge

Applications are invited for the post of Senior Lecturer in the Department of Teaching Studies, with special reference to work in the Early Years (0-5) and in-service. Recent experience with the 0-5 age range is essential. Residential accommodation would be available if required.

Further details from The Principal, Longworth School, Redbridge. Applications should be sent to the Principal, Longworth School, Redbridge, before 15th March 1984. (8190)

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

On behalf of the Management Committee of Aylesbury Multi-Centre, Bucks.

Applications are invited for the post of Senior Lecturer in the Department of Teaching Studies, with special reference to work in the Early Years (0-5) and in-service. Recent experience with the 0-5 age range is essential. Residential accommodation would be available if required.

Further details from The Principal, Aylesbury Multi-Centre, Bucks. Applications should be sent to the Principal, Aylesbury Multi-Centre, Bucks, before 15th March 1984. (8190)

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

CHERRY HILL JUNIOR SCHOOL
Cambridge

Applications are invited for the post of Senior Lecturer in the Department of Teaching Studies, with special reference to work in the Early Years (0-5) and in-service. Recent experience with the 0-5 age range is essential. Residential accommodation would be available if required.

Further details from The Principal, Cherry Hill Junior School, Cambridge. Applications should be sent to the Principal, Cherry Hill Junior School, Cambridge, before 15th March 1984. (8190)

HERTFORDSHIRE

Inner London Education
BISHOP CREIGHTON HOUSE
378 Lillie Road, Putnam

Applications are invited for the post of Senior Lecturer in the Department of Teaching Studies, with special reference to work in the Early Years (0-5) and in-service. Recent experience with the 0-5 age range is essential. Residential accommodation would be available if required.

Further details from The Principal, Bishop Creighton House, Putnam. Applications should be sent to the Principal, Bishop Creighton House, Putnam, before 15th March 1984. (8190)

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YOUTH & COMMUNITY

continued
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CHERRY HILL JUNIOR SCHOOL
Cambridge

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HERTFORDSHIRE

DE HAVILLAND COLLEGE
Hemel Hempstead

Applications are invited for the post of Senior Lecturer in the Department of Teaching Studies, with special reference to work in the Early Years (0-5) and in-service. Recent experience with the 0-5 age range is essential. Residential accommodation would be available if required.

Further details from The Principal, De Havilland College, Hemel Hempstead. Applications should be sent to the Principal, De Havilland College, Hemel Hempstead, before 15th March 1984. (8190)

HOUNSLOW

LONGFORD SCHOOL
Longford Road, Putnam

Applications are invited for the post of Senior Lecturer in the Department of Teaching Studies, with special reference to work in the Early Years (0-5) and in-service. Recent experience with the 0-5 age range is essential. Residential accommodation would be available if required.

Further details from The Principal, Longford School, Putnam. Applications should be sent to the Principal, Longford School, Putnam, before 15th March 1984. (8190)

THE SOUTH-EAST REGIONAL EXAMINATIONS BOARD FOR THE CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

SECRETARY TO THE BOARD

Applications are invited for the post of Secretary to the Board to succeed the present Secretary, who will retire in January, 1985. The Board is seeking candidates with appropriate educational and administrative expertise. The current salary is on a scale of £18,870, rising by four increments to £20,370.

Application forms and further particulars from: The Secretary, The South-East Regional Examinations Board, 2 and 4 Mount Ephraim Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1EU, to whom completed applications should be returned by 31st March, 1984.

ADMIN continued

NORWICH
THE KESWICK HALL CHARITY
FIELD OFFICER IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
For work in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. Burial, Teachers Scale 4 for adults.
For full details and application forms, send a stamped addressed envelope to: Canon Keswick Hall, Keswick, Cumbria, CA13 9JL. Closing date: 10th April, 1984. (54755) 50000

Child Care

TYNE AND WEAR WASHINGTON HALL SCHOOL
requires
RESIDENTIAL SOCIAL WORKERS
We are developing our resources for boys aged 11-16 with emotional, behavioural and learning difficulties, and we require:
1. Senior Houseparent: The person appointed will take on a leadership role in the care team. In O.G.M. Teaching Certificate, N.J.C. Nursing qualification preferred. We would prefer the person appointed to be resident.
2. Houseparent: Professional qualification preferred.
Salary/conditions in accordance with N.J.C. Grades dependent upon qualifications and experience.
For informal discussion please contact Mr. K.G. Bower, (Headmaster), at Tel: 0191 418 1000. School, Tyne Avenue, Washington, Tyne and Wear, NE28 9JL. (55595) 40000

THE BADGEWORTH GROUP OF SPECIAL SCHOOLS

REQUIRED SENIOR HOUSEPARENT for appointment to the GROUP. Badgeworth Group is an independent Group of four schools, catering for children with physical disabilities. The schools have been made boys aged 8 to 16. These are non-resident posts on a rota basis. Previous experience in special schools is essential. Salary: £15,000 p.a. subject to incremental allowance according to experience. Plus relevant qualification allowance where applicable. A sleeping in allowance of £24.00 per night is paid. 8 weeks paid holiday. Removal expenses to the Group are subject to the production of satisfactory references. No appointment without a ratified until such references are received.
APPLICATIONS (Forms) from: The Director, Badgeworth Group of Special Schools, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 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3819, 3821, 3823, 3825, 3827, 3829, 3831, 3833, 3835, 3837, 3839, 3841, 3843, 3845, 3847, 3849, 3851, 3853, 3855, 3857, 3859, 3861, 3863, 3865, 3867, 3869, 3871, 3873, 3875, 3877, 3879, 3881, 3883, 3885, 3887, 3889, 3891, 3893, 3895, 3897, 3899, 3901, 3903, 3905, 3907, 3909, 3911, 3913, 3915, 3917, 3919, 3921, 3923, 3925, 3927, 3929, 3931, 3933, 3935, 3937, 3939, 3941, 3943, 3945, 3947, 3949, 3951, 3953, 3955, 3957, 3959, 3961, 3963, 3965, 3967

